UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Profile of Veterans: 2017

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

March 2019

NCVAS National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).
  - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
  - The ACS uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.

- The universe for this analysis is the civilian population 17 years and older living in the United States and Puerto Rico.
  - This universe includes a weighted estimate of 18.3 million Veterans, of which 1.6 million were women.
  - The universe includes a weighted estimate of 278 million civilian population, of which 241 million were non-Veterans.
  - The analysis is presented in four parts: (1) Veteran status (slides 4 to 23); (2) Veterans by sex (slides 24 to 31) ; (3) Minorities by Veteran status (slides 32-41); and (4) Summary of results (slides 42-44).

- Race categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population (e.g., White non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, Asian non-Hispanic). Hispanics can be of any race.
  - "NHOPI" includes Native Hawaiians and or other Pacific Islanders.
  - "Some Other Race" includes individuals who did not report as belonging to any other race categories.
  - "Two or More Races" includes individuals who chose two or more race categories.
  - The term "AIAN" is used for those individuals who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Natives.

- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.
  - A "statistically significant difference" simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word.'
  - A "no statistically significant difference" means that there is statistical evidence that there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates.

- For more information about the ACS, see: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/ .

- Other data sources used are VetPop2016, the official Veteran population projection from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2017 (USVets2017).
  - These sources are based on the Federal fiscal year – October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 and will be identified throughout this document, as appropriate.

Issues to consider when comparing Veterans and non-Veterans

Veterans are predominantly men (around 91 percent) whereas over half of all non-Veterans are women. This difference is particularly important to remember when doing any economic comparisons. In general, men earn more, were more likely to be employed, less likely to be single parents, and less likely to live in poverty than women. Any economic differences between the total Veteran population and the total non-Veteran population will be exaggerated by the differences in the sex ratios of the two groups.

Veterans are significantly older than non-Veterans. Veteran median age is around 64 compared with 44 for non-Veterans. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment, disability, income) will be significantly affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

There are issues of selection bias in any comparison of Veterans and non-Veterans. Individuals in the All-Volunteer Force are not randomly selected into the Armed Forces. They choose to enlist and are then chosen by the military based on specific criteria, both mental and physical, that may set them apart from the population who chose not to enlist. Any effects ascribed to military service may be attributable to pre-service characteristics and not necessarily Veteran status.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veteran and Non-Veteran Population Totals

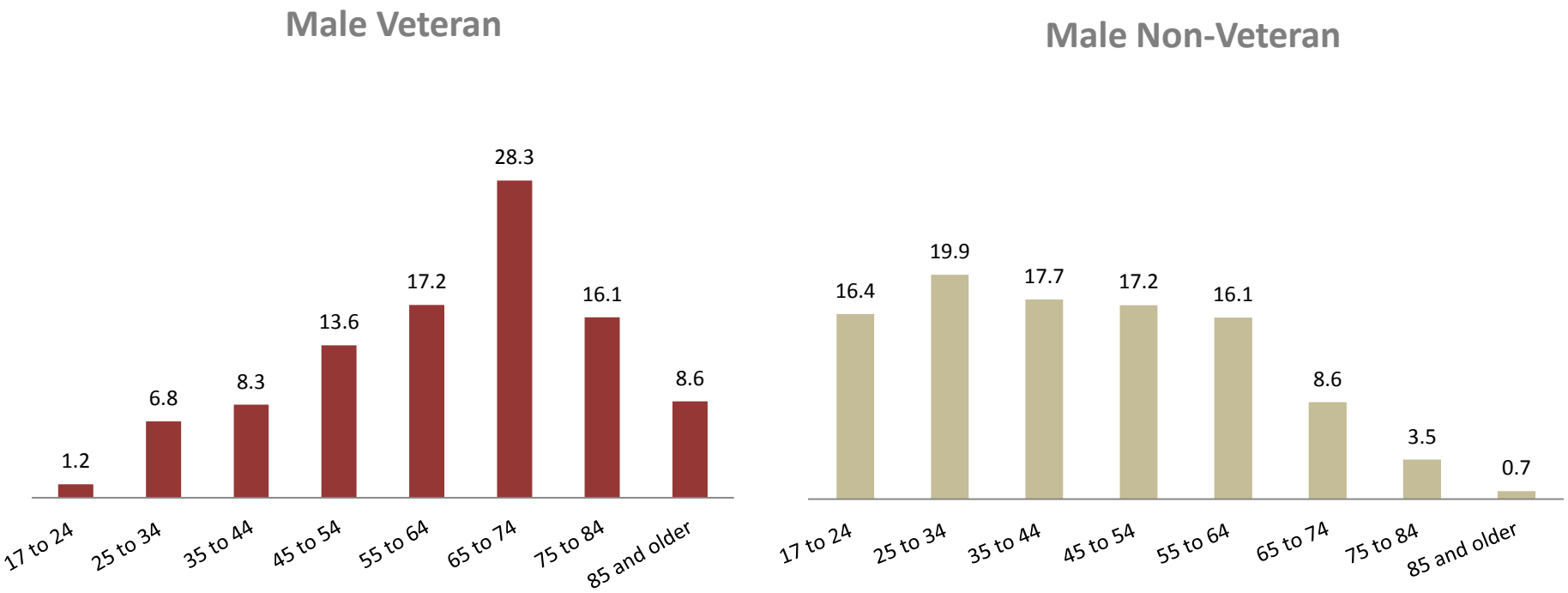
18,263,035 Veterans
240,828,789 Non-Veterans

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017

Male Veterans on average were older than non-Veteran men. In 2017, the median age of male Veterans was 65 and the median age of non-Veteran men was 42.

Age Distribution of Men

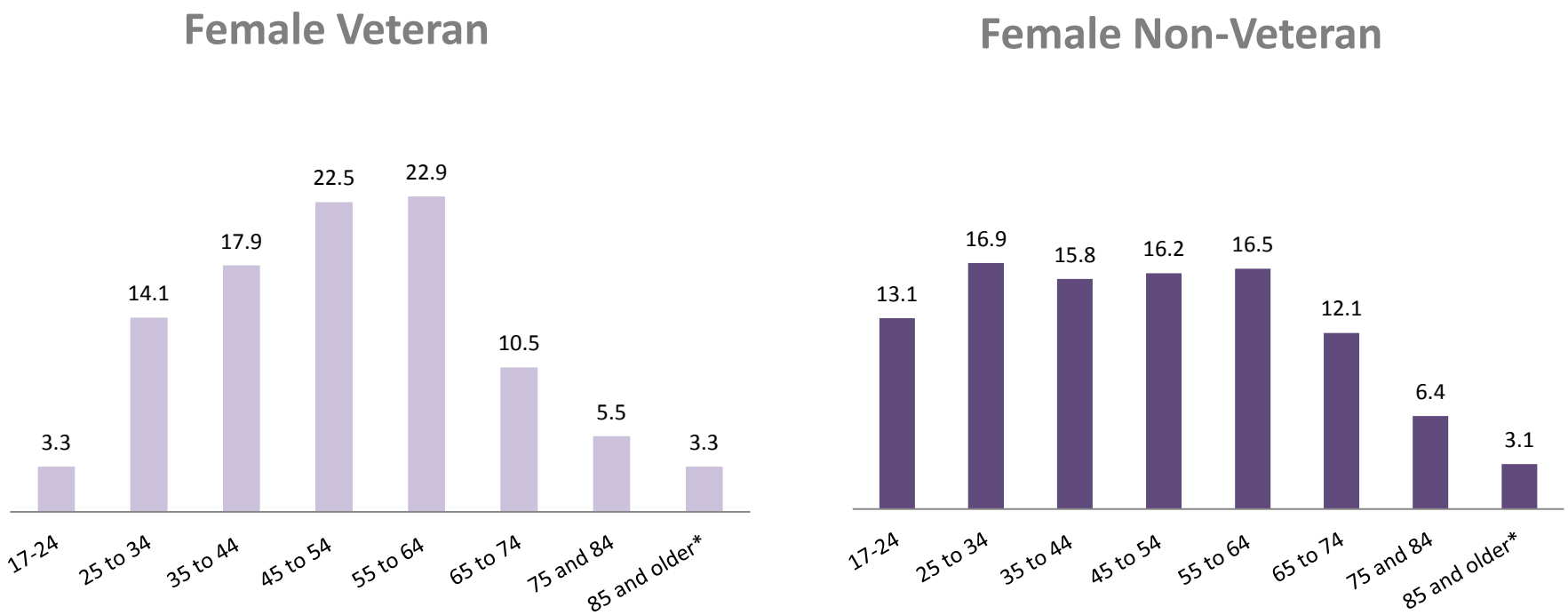
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

As with male Veterans, a lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old than their non-Veteran counterparts. These are the ages when most men and women may still be serving in the military and have not yet become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 51 and non-Veteran women was 47 in 2017.

Age Distribution of Women
(in percent)



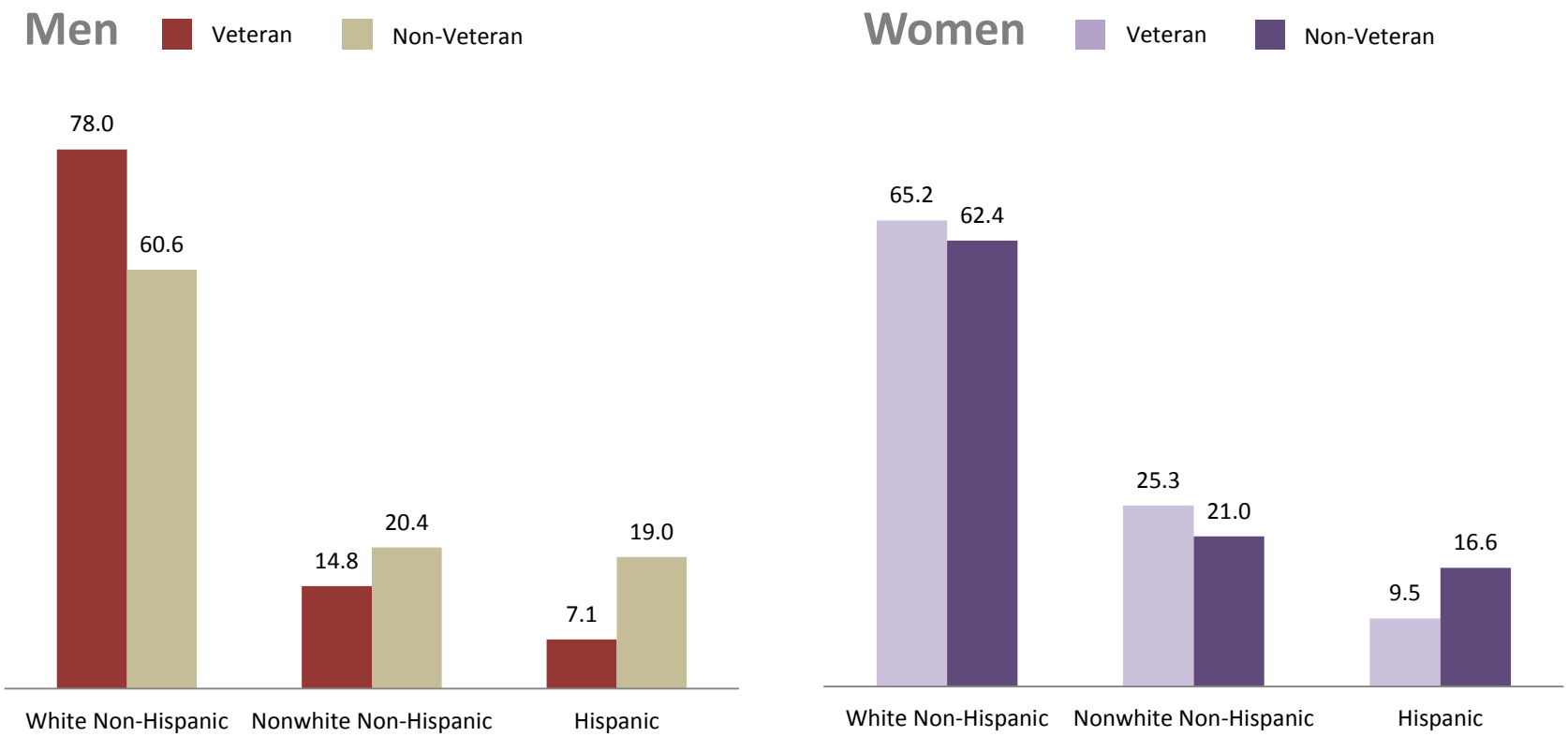
*Age difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Male Veterans were more likely to be White not Hispanic than non-Veterans and women Veterans. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite not Hispanic than non-Veteran women. Both male and female Veterans were less likely to be Hispanic than their non-Veteran counterparts.

Race Distribution

(in percent)

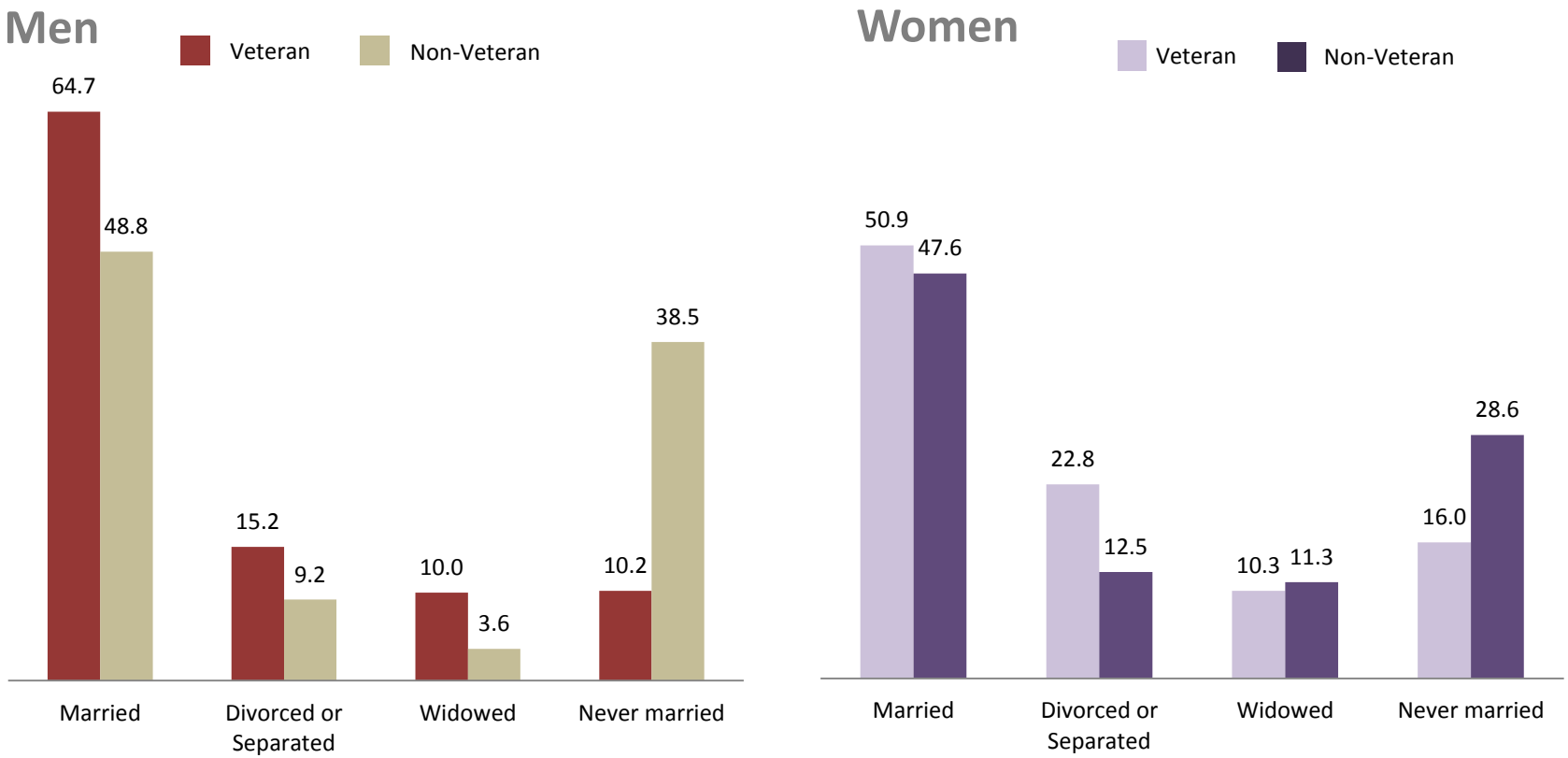


Notes: (1) "Nonwhite" includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races; (2) Refer to slide 27 for a detailed distribution of race and ethnicity.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veterans were more likely to be married or divorced and less likely to have never married compared with non-Veterans.

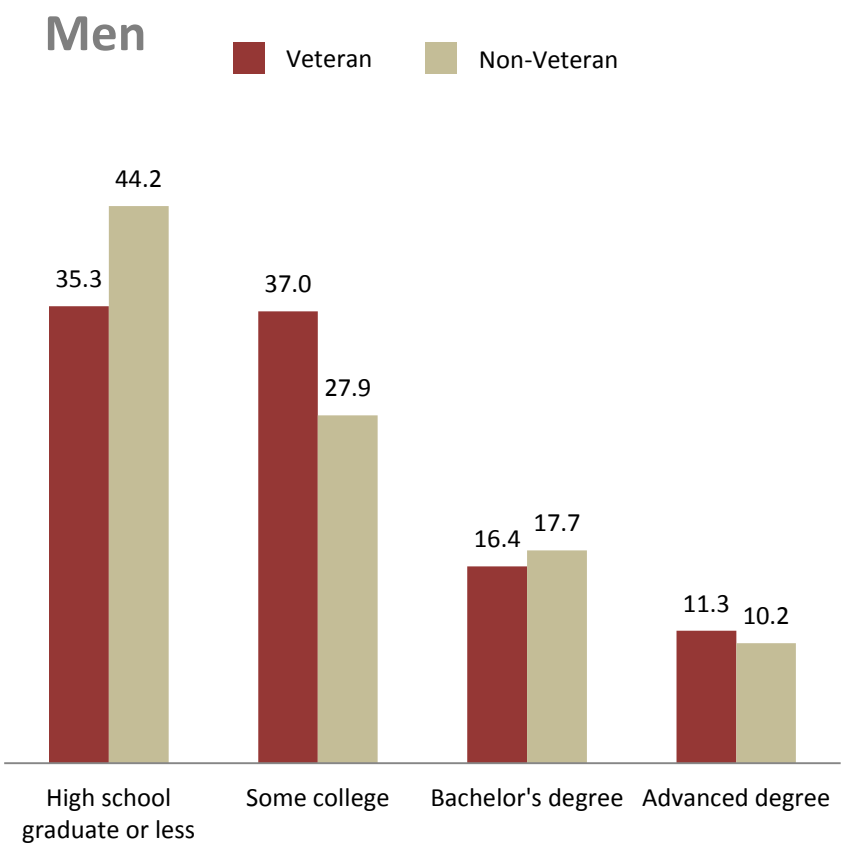
Marital Status Distribution
(in percent)

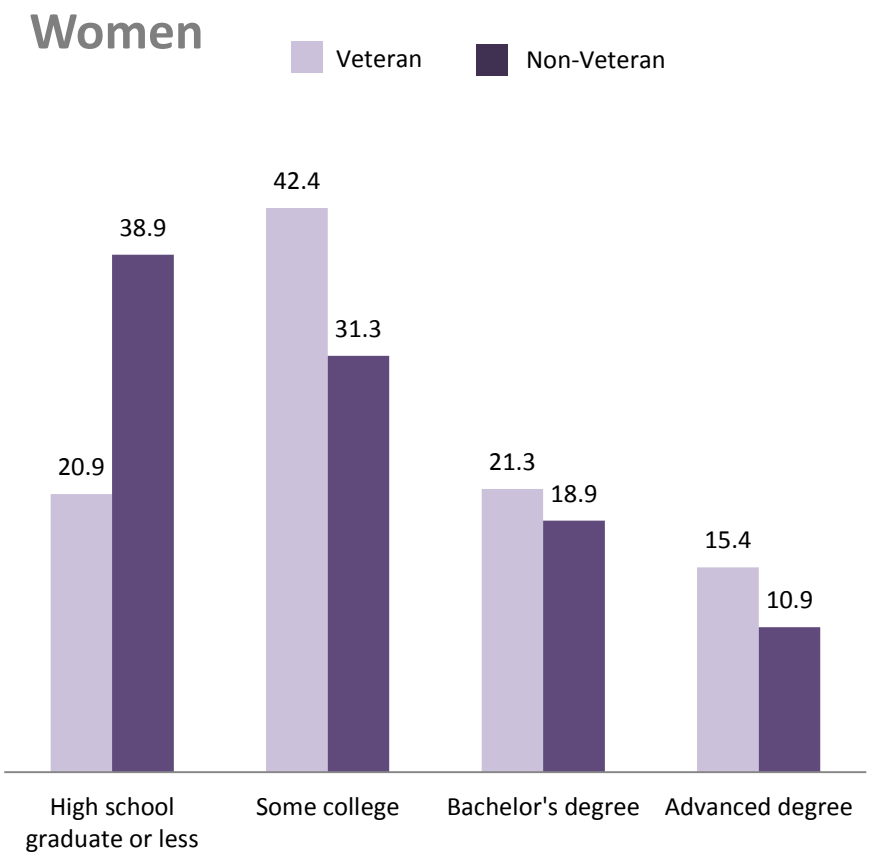


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Female Veterans were more likely to have some college, bachelor's degree and an advanced degree than male Veterans and female non-Veterans.

Education Levels Distribution
(in percent)



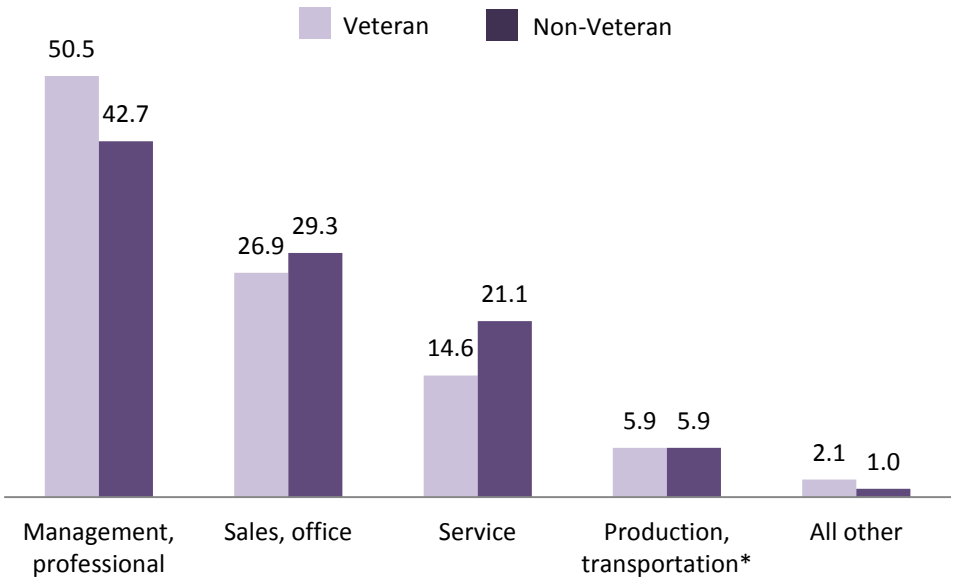


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

The percentage of female Veterans working in management, business, science and arts occupations was about 8 percentage points higher than that of non-Veteran women in 2017. These include occupations such as engineers, educators, doctors, and various types of managers. About 34 percent of female Veterans worked for local, state, or Federal government, compared to 16 percent of non-Veteran women.

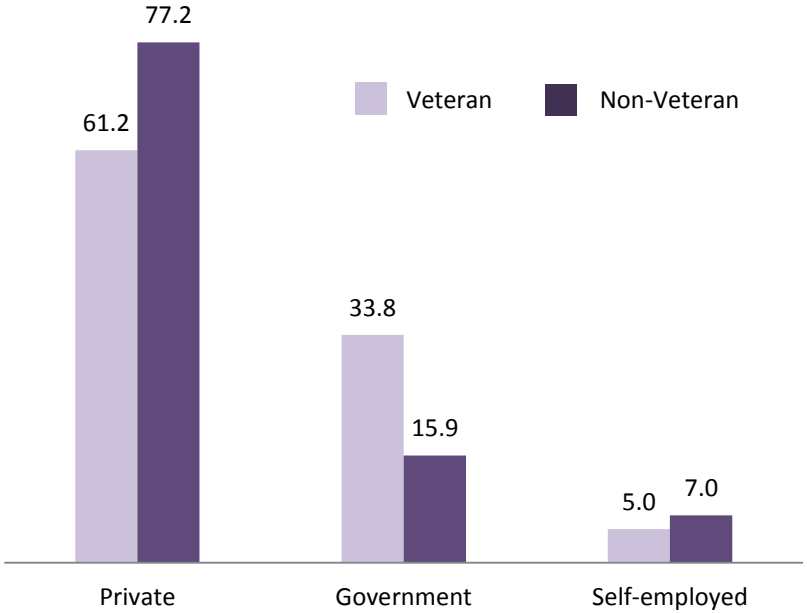
Occupation of Employed Women

(in percent)



Class of Worker of Employed Women

(in percent)



*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

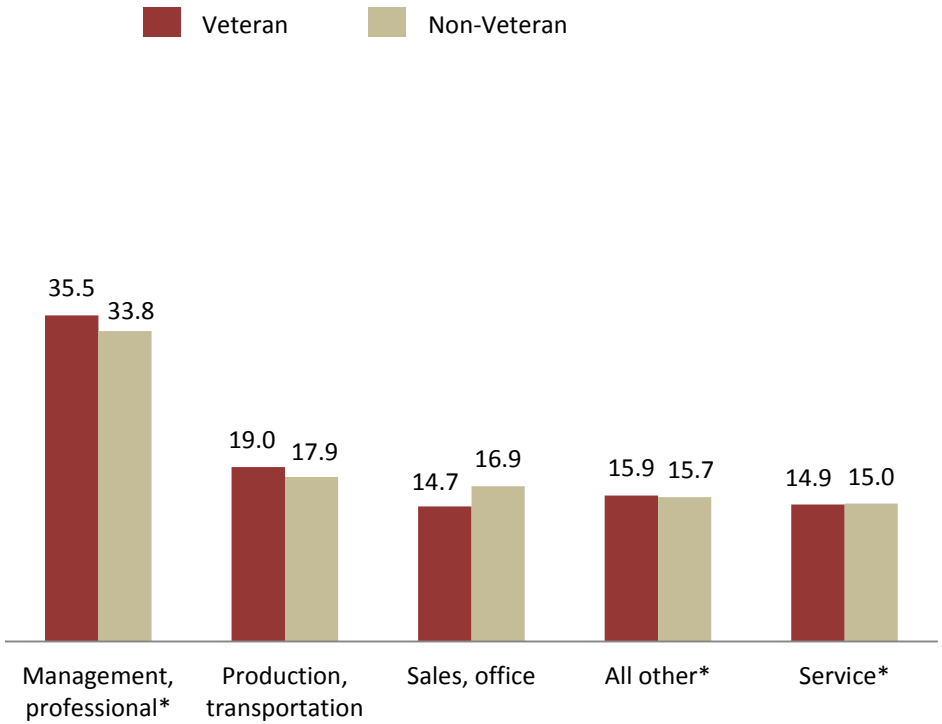
Note: "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

A higher percentage of male Veterans were in management, business, science, arts and transportation occupations compared with non-Veteran men in 2017. The percentage of male Veterans working for local, state, or Federal governments were twice that of non-Veteran men.

Occupation of Employed Men

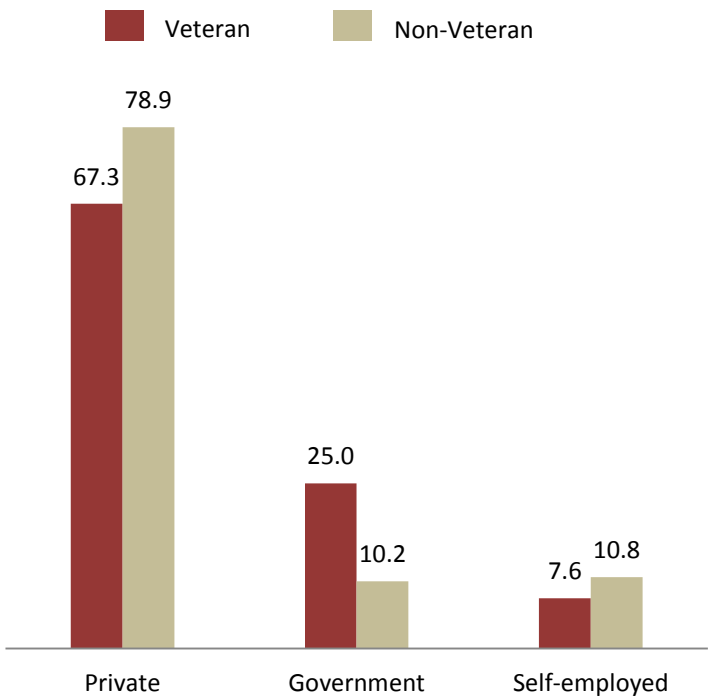
(in percent)



*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran men is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Class of Worker of Employed Men

(in percent)



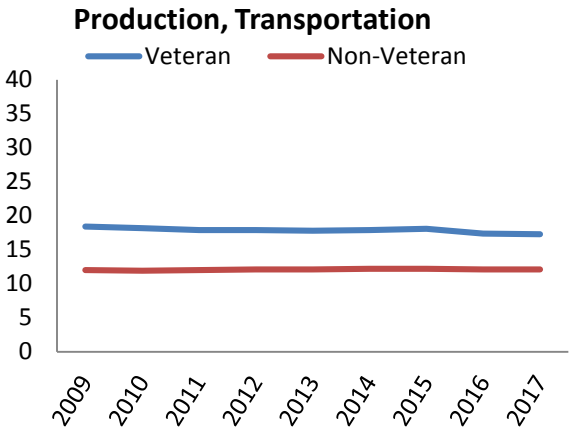
Note: "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.

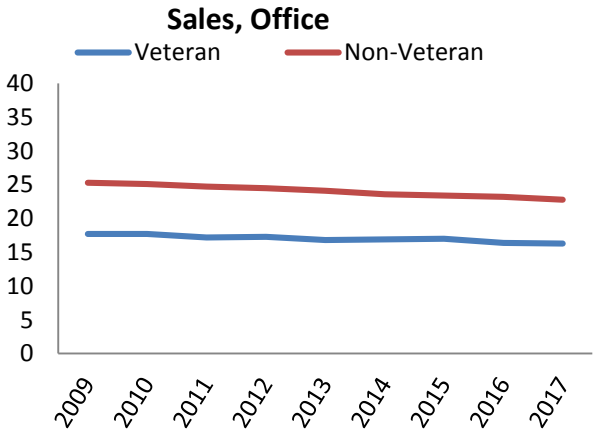
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

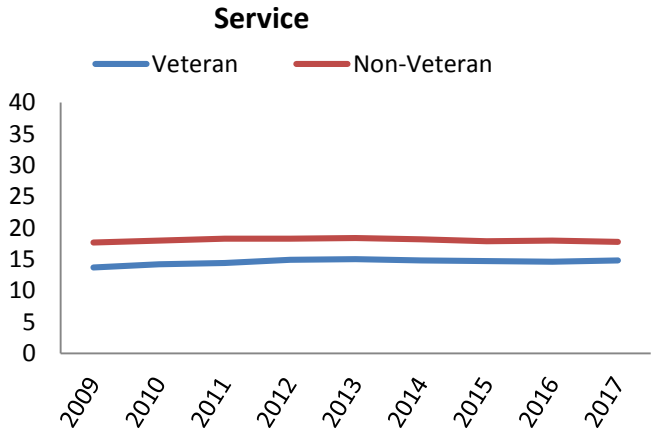
A higher percentage of employed Veterans were in production, transportation and other occupations than employed non-Veterans over time. Management, business, science and arts occupations remained steady regardless of the employed Veteran status.

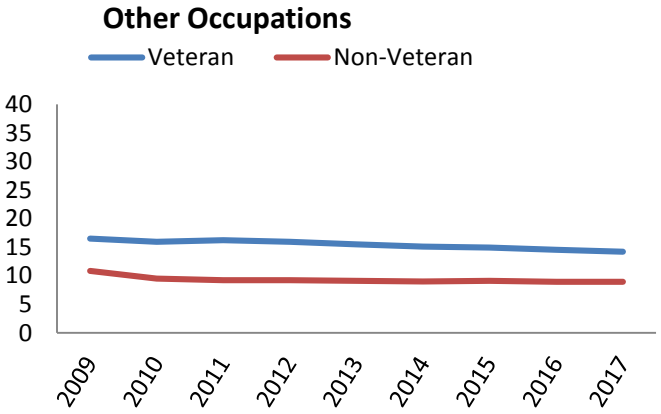
Occupations of Employed Veterans and Non-Veterans

(in percent)









*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

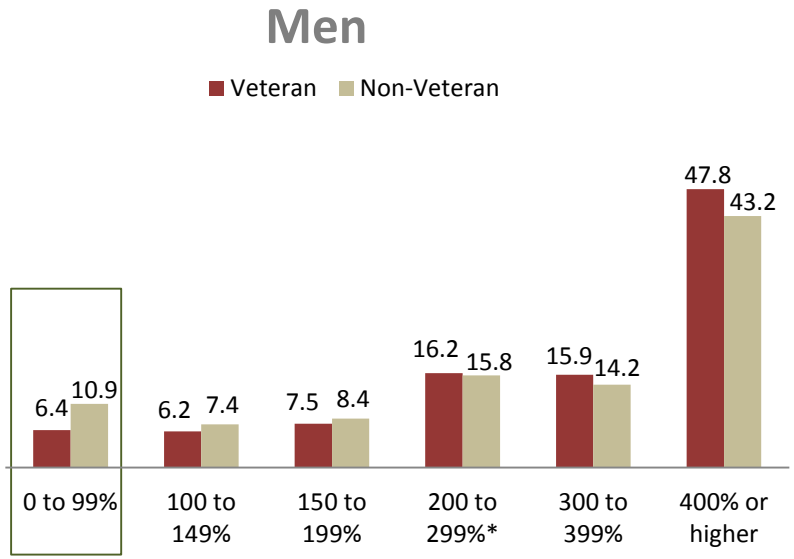
Notes: (1) "All other" includes military; farming, fishing and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.
(2) The prevalence of occupations are not statistically significant at the 90 percent level from year to year.

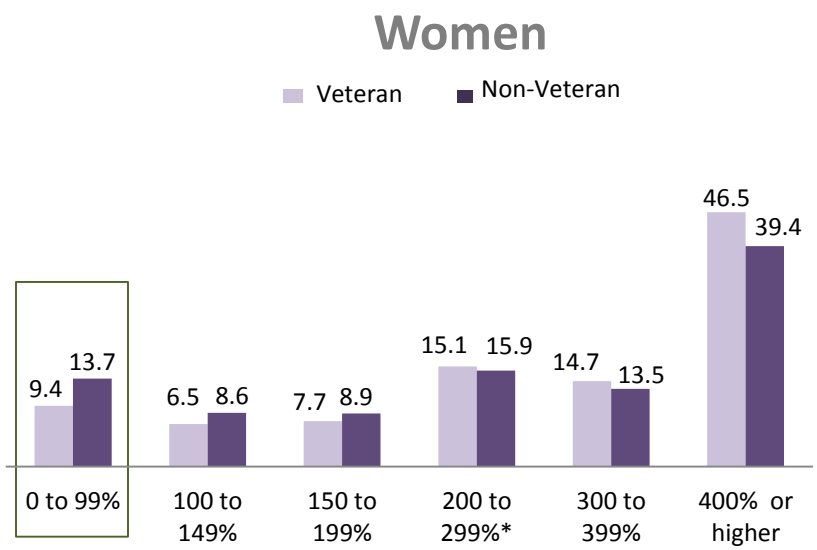
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 1-year estimates 2009 to 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veterans were more likely to live above 400 percent of poverty level compared to non-Veterans. Fewer Veterans lived at or below poverty level than non-Veterans.

Poverty Level Distributions

(in percent)





*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

In-Poverty by Veteran Status

(in percent)

Men

Age	Veteran	Non-Veteran
25 to 34 Years Old	8.4	10.1
35 to 44 Years Old	5.2	9.3

Women

Age	Veteran	Non-Veteran
25 to 34 Years Old	11.4	15.9
35 to 44 Years Old	9.0	13.5

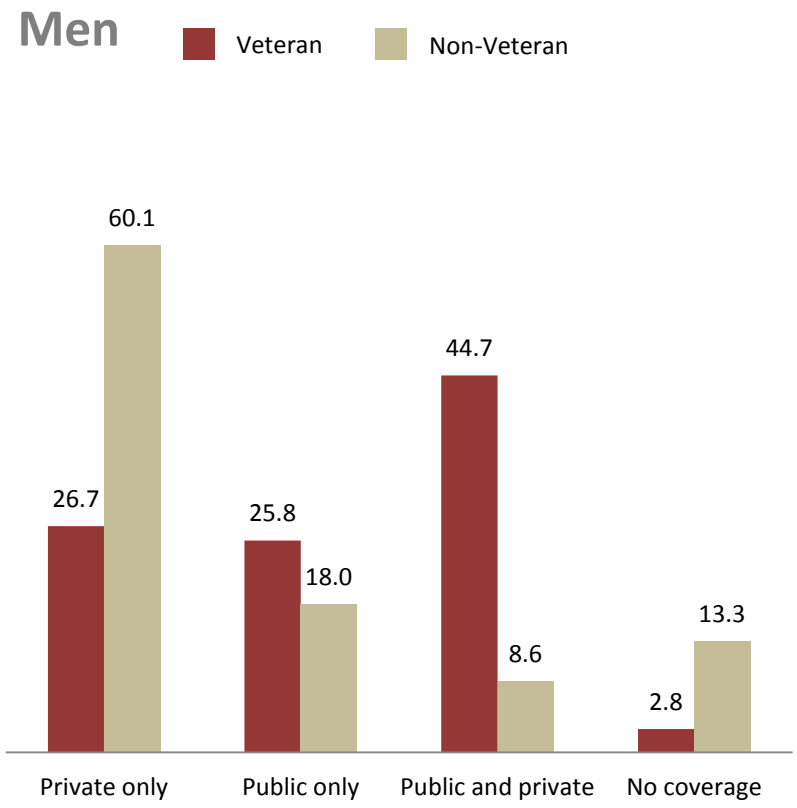
Note: Families in the "0 to 99 percent" are in poverty. Categories above 100 percent are used by public and private programs to determine eligibility. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). For more information, visit: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html.

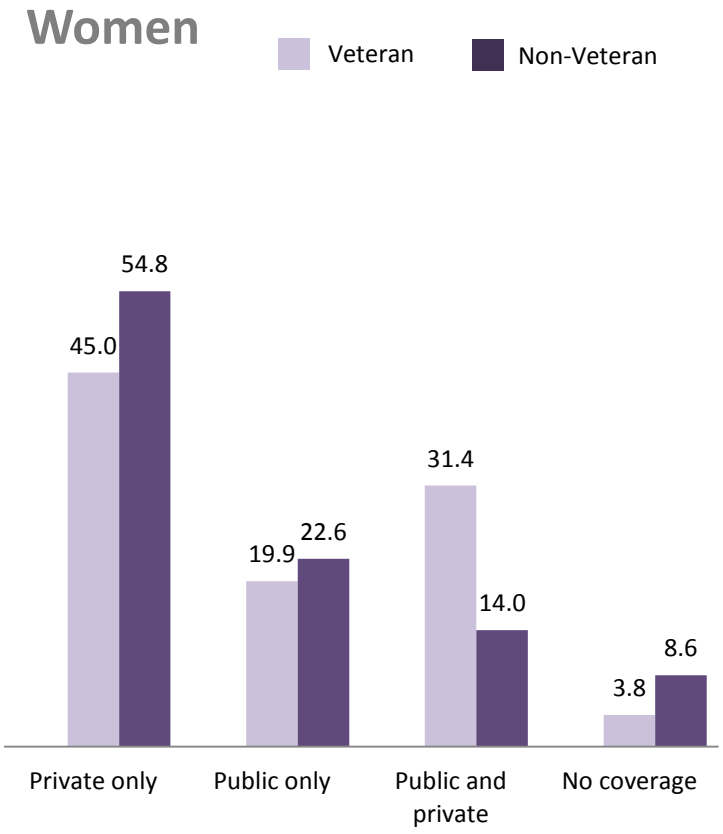
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Both male and female Veterans were more likely to have a combination of public and private health insurance coverage compared with their non-Veteran counterparts. The high percentage of male Veterans in this category was likely due to Medicare, use of VA health care and second career after retirement than non-Veterans. Male and female Veterans had lower uninsured rates than non-Veterans in 2017.

Health Insurance Coverage Distribution

(in percent)



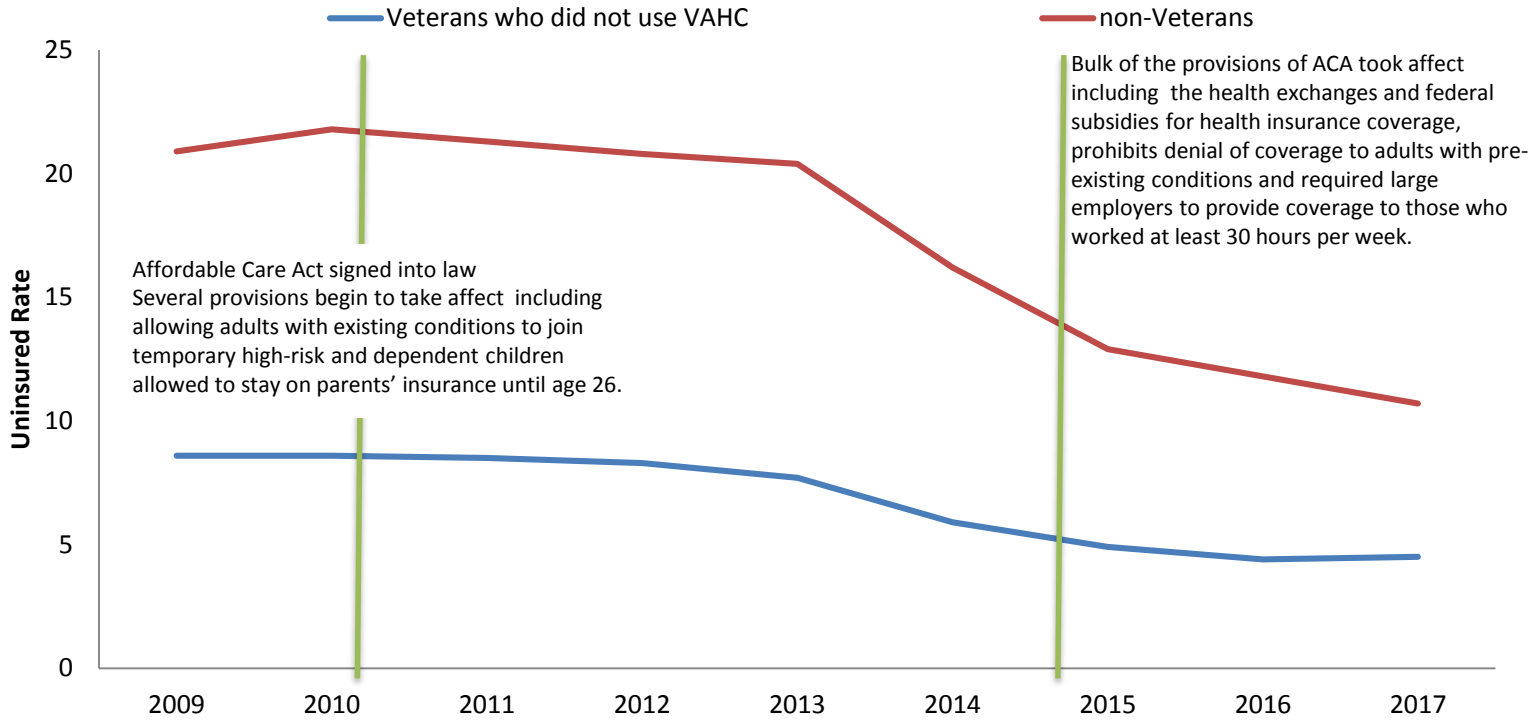


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

The percentage of uninsured non-Veterans was more than double that of uninsured Veterans who did not use VA health care (VAHC) in all years 2009 to 2017.

Uninsured Rates for Veterans Who Did Not Use VAHC and non-Veterans, 2009-2017

(in percent)



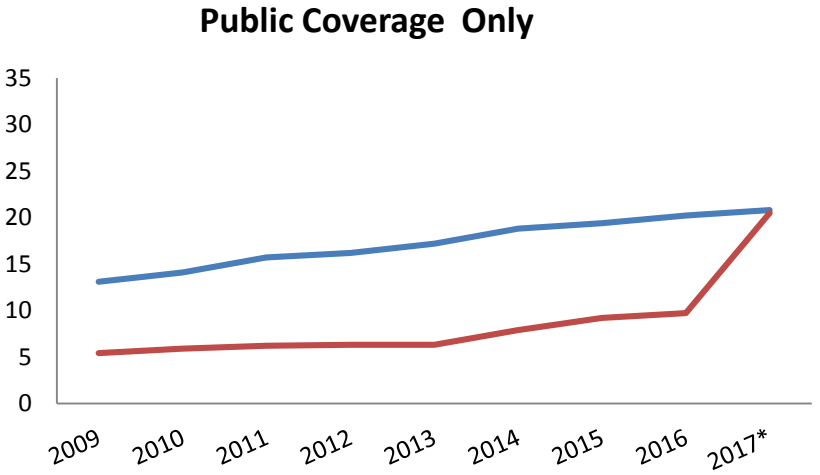
*The year to year change for Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level for 2009 to 2010, 2010 to 2011 and 2011 to 2012.

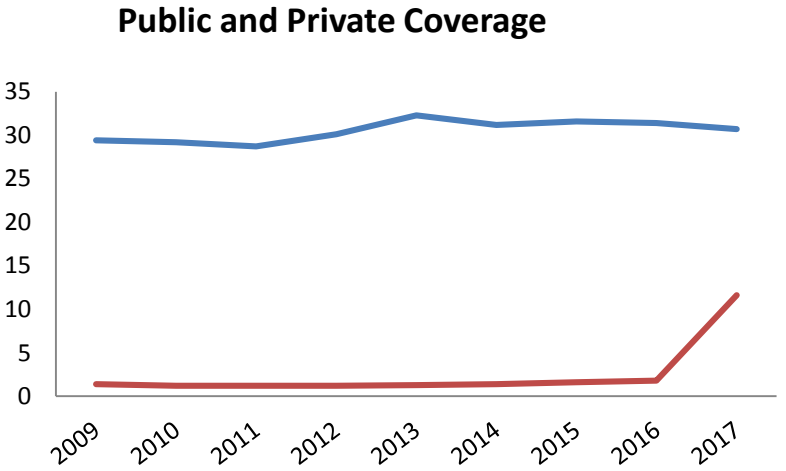
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 1-year estimates 2009 to 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

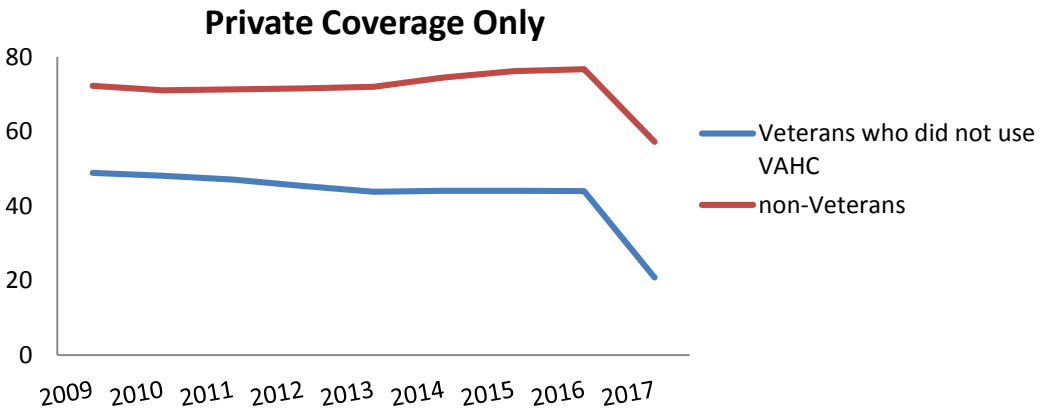
A higher percentage of Veterans who did not use VA health care (VAHC) had private only and public and private health care coverage than non-Veterans over time.

Insurance Type for Veterans Who Did Not Use Veteran Affairs Health Care and non-Veterans, 2009-2017

(in percent)





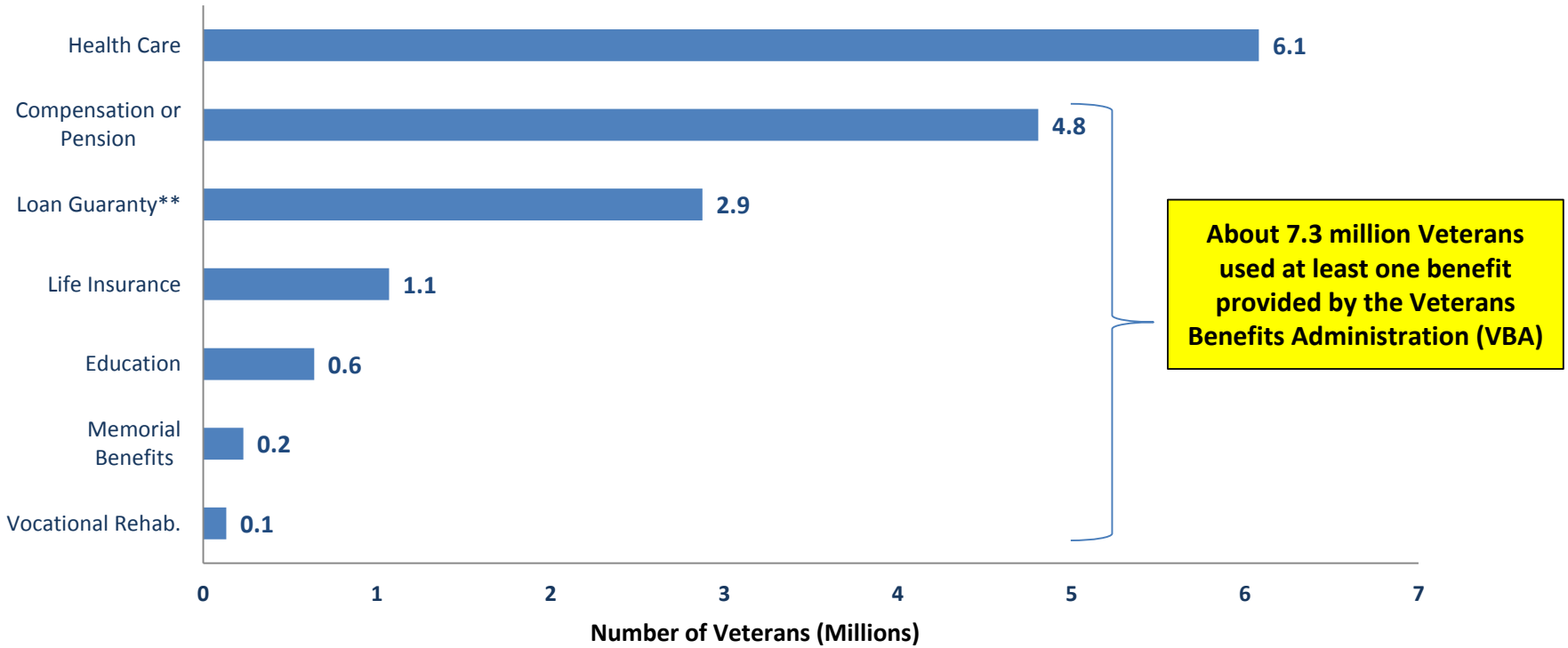


*Difference between Veteran and non-Veteran men is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 1-year estimates 2009 to 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Approximately 9.8 million Veterans used at least one VA benefit or service in FY 2017. Forty five percent of all VA users received benefits or services from multiple programs.*

VA Benefits Utilization by Program - Veterans only: FY 2017



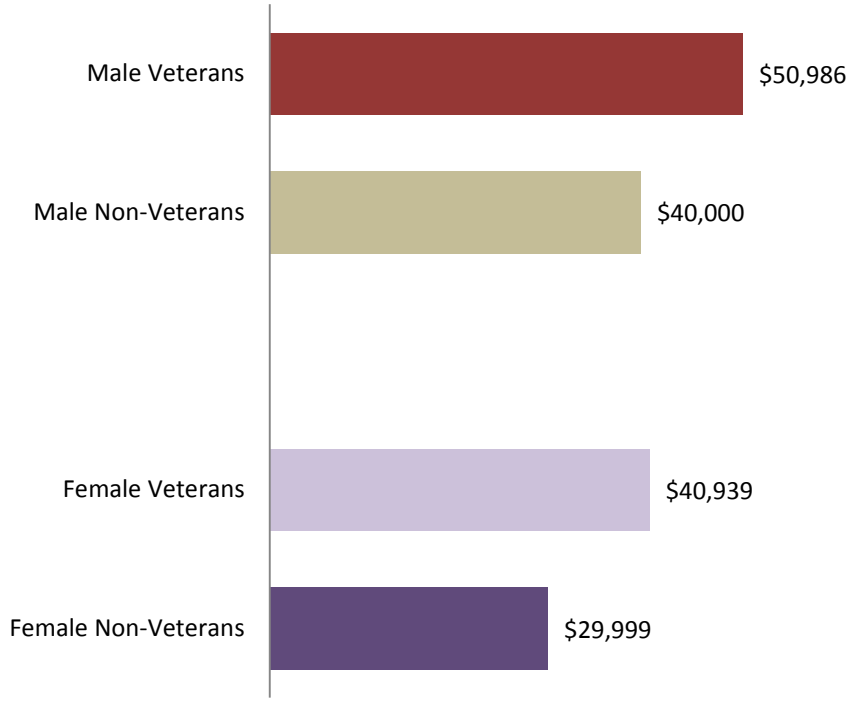
** The numbers from the chart do not sum to the total number of VA users. Veterans who used multiple programs are counted in each individual program, but only once in the overall total.*

*** Contains Veterans who received Special Housing Allowance or Special Adaptive Housing benefits.*

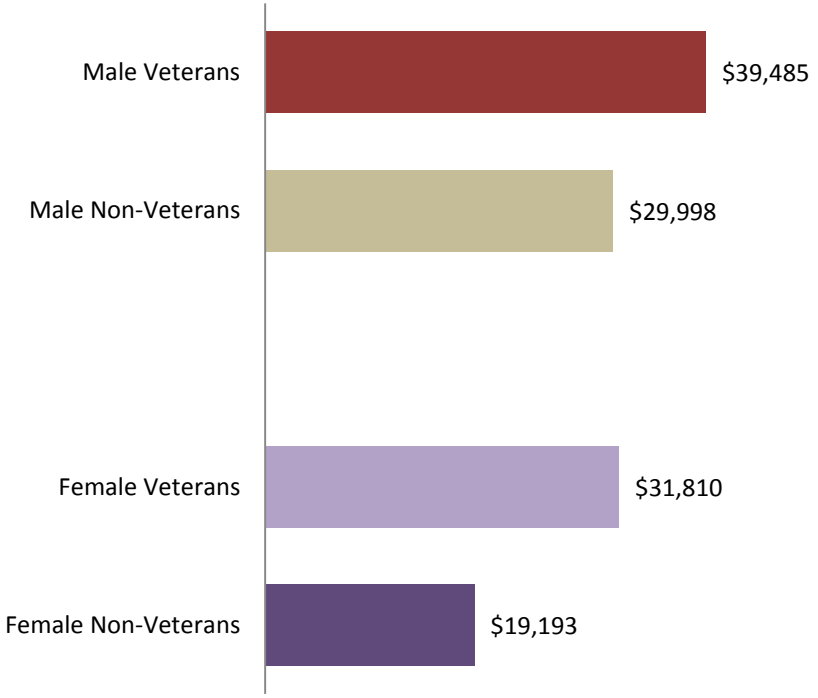
Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

In 2017, both male and female Veterans who worked full-time, year-round had higher median earnings than their non-Veteran counterparts. Veterans of both sexes also had higher personal incomes than non-Veterans.

Median Earnings of Year-Round Full-Time Workers by Sex and Veteran Status



Median Personal Income by Sex and Veteran Status



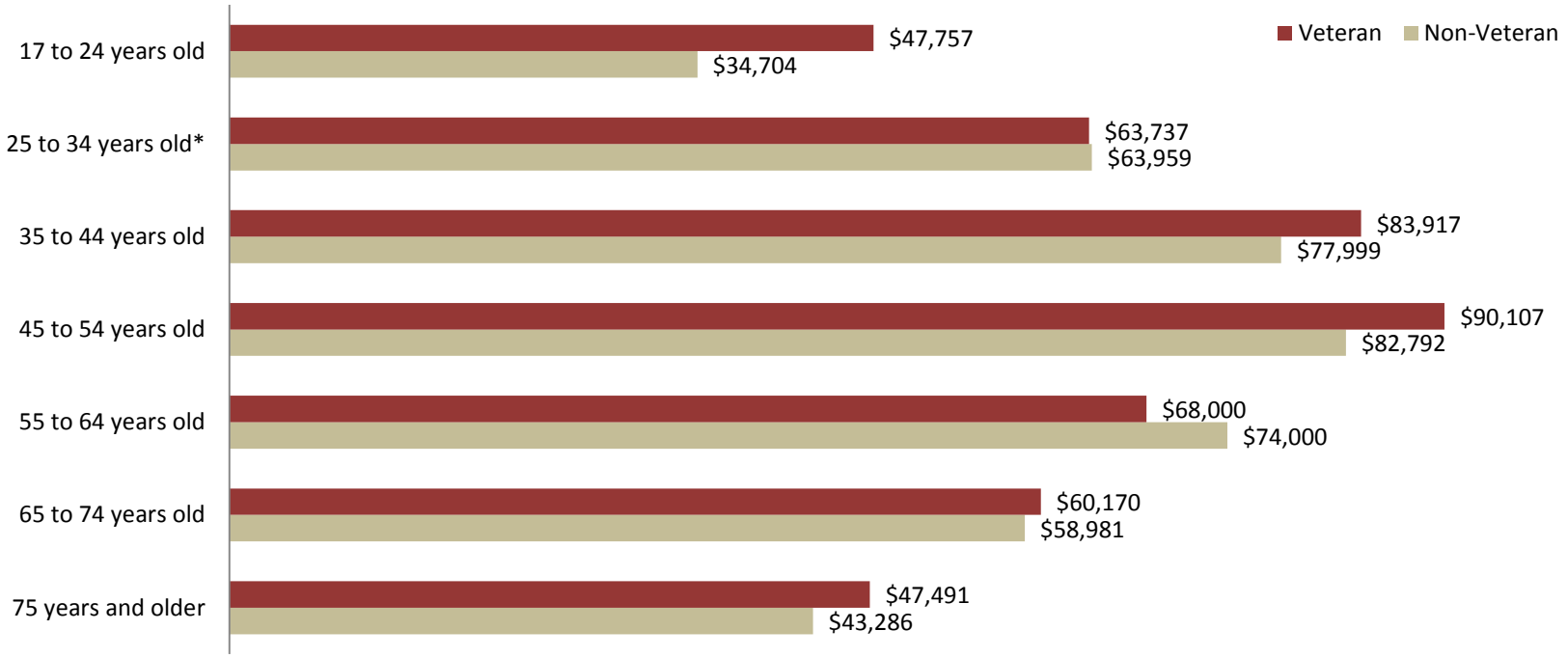
"Earnings" refer to salary, wages, and self employment income. "Year-round full-time(YRFT) refers to employment of 50 or more weeks per year and 35 or more hours per week. Median earnings are calculated for the YRFT employed population with earnings greater than zero and less than 65 years of age.

"Income" refers to the total of earnings and other sources of income such as pension, Supplement Security Income, public assistance, etc. Median Income is calculated for the total population with personal income greater than zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

In most age groups, Veteran men have higher median household income than non-Veteran men.

Median Household Income of Men by Veteran Status: 2017



	Veteran Men	Non-Veteran Men
Median Household Income	$61,986	$67,995

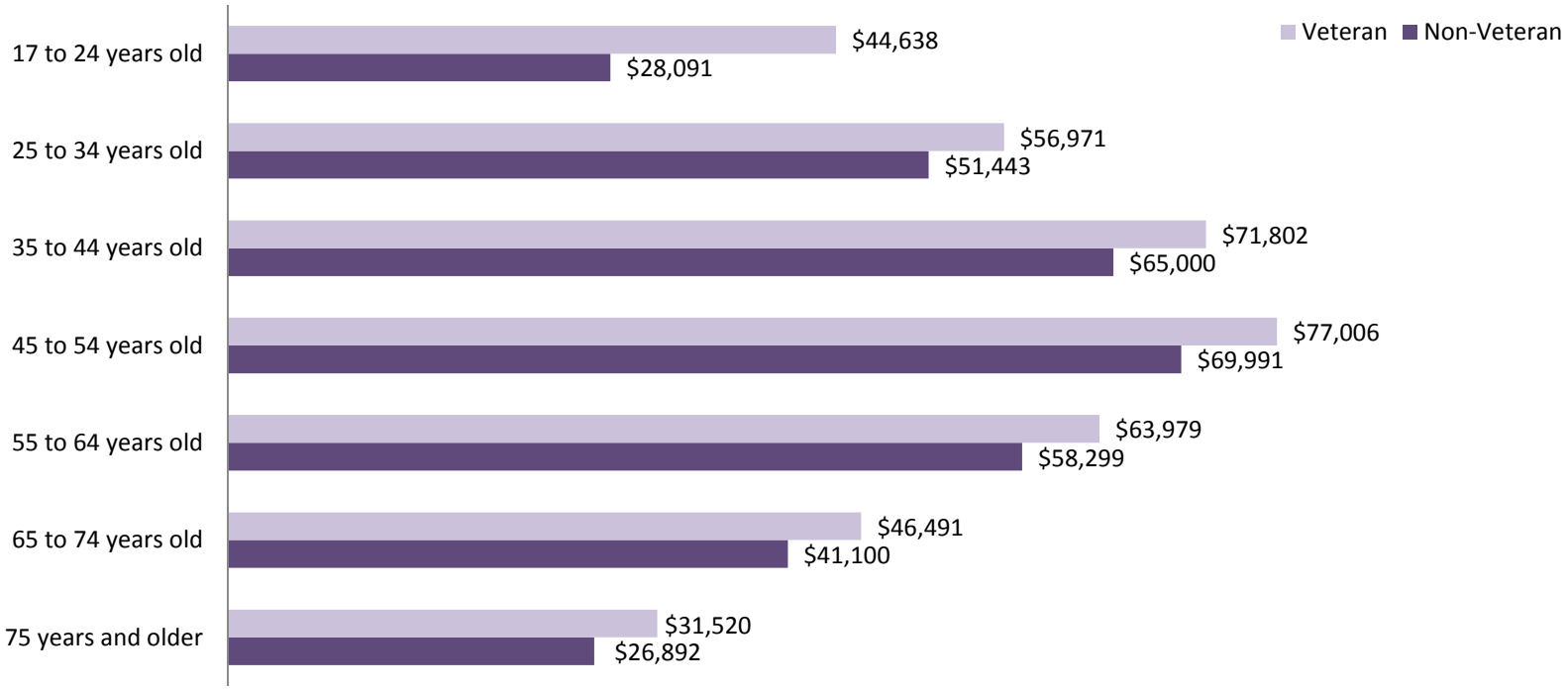
*Difference between Veteran and non-Veteran men is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: Income of Households: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veteran women had higher median household income than non-Veteran women.

Median Household Income of Women by Veteran Status: 2017



	Female Veterans	Female Non-Veterans
Median Household Income	$60,223	$50,398

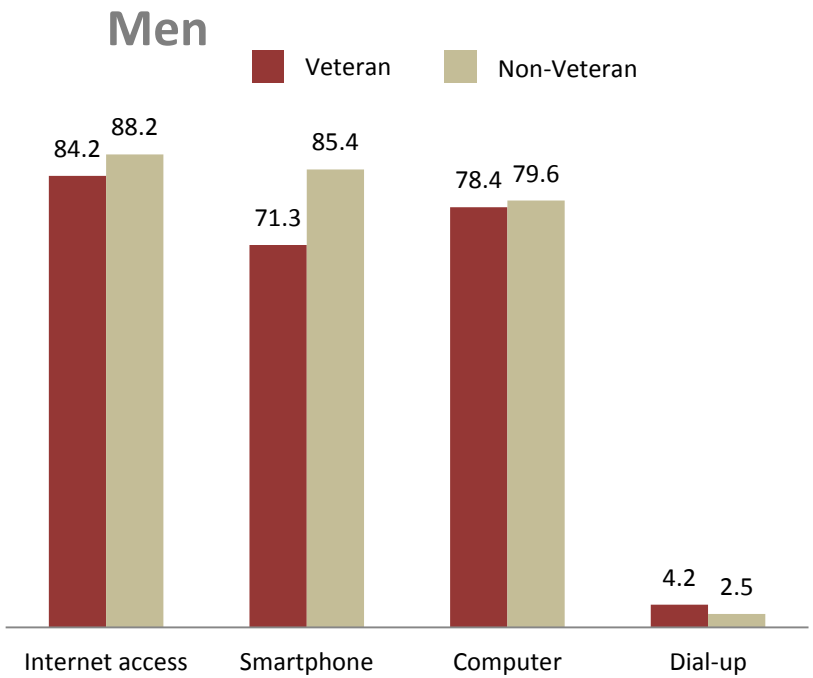
Note: Income of Households: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

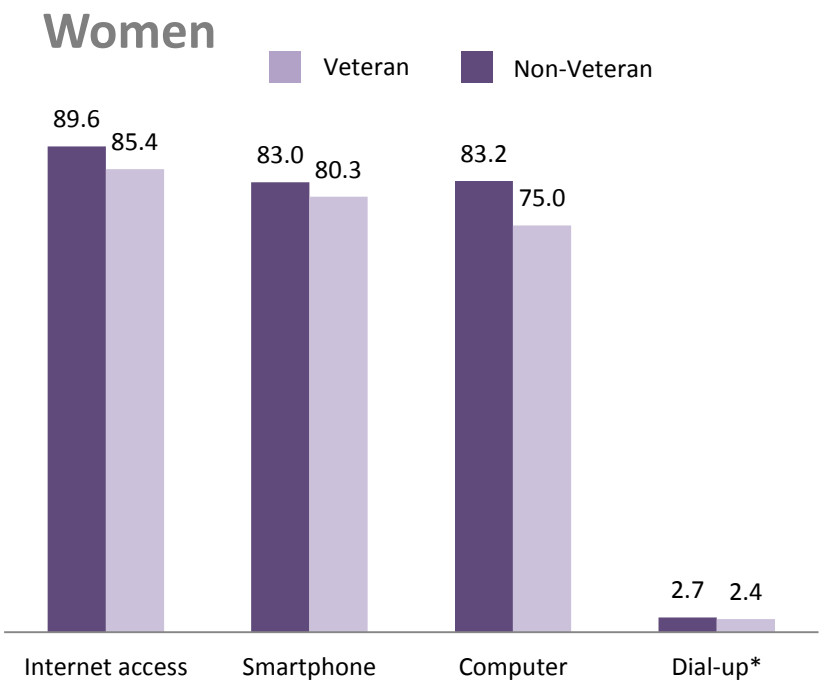
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veteran women live in households were most likely to have internet access, use/own a computer compared to Veterans and non-Veterans men.

Internet Access and Computer Use in the Household

(in percent)





	Total Veterans (%)	Total Non-Veterans (%)
Internet access	84.6	86.7
Smartphone	72.2	82.6
Computer	78.8	77.1
Dial-up	4.1	2.5

*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

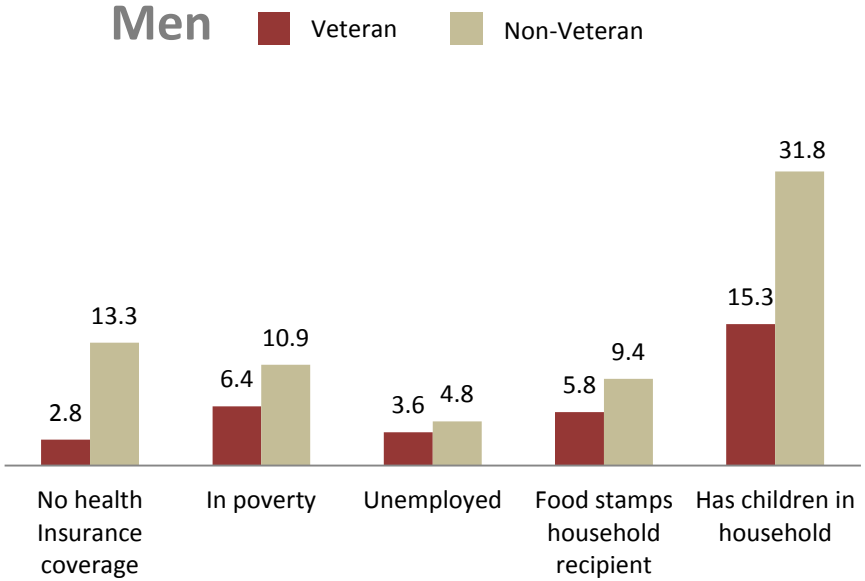
Note: "Computer" refers to a laptop or desktop.

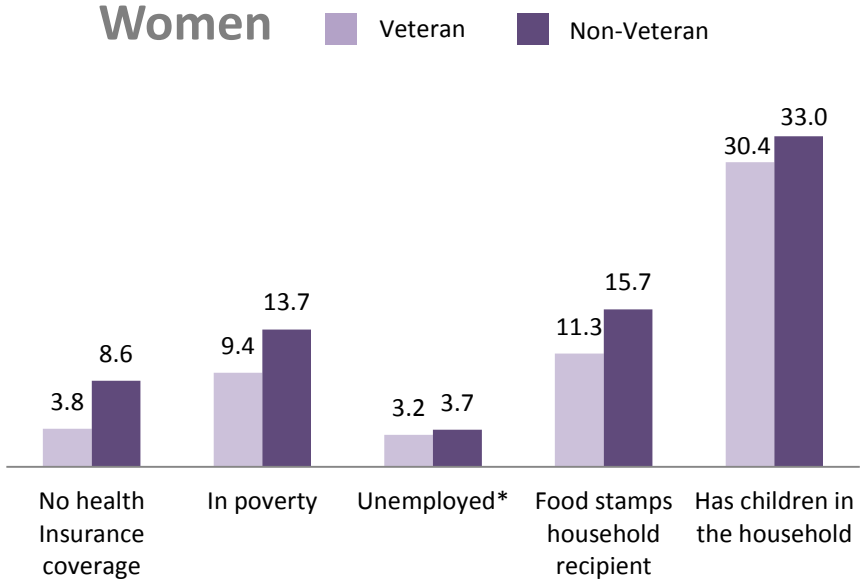
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veterans were more likely to have health insurance and less likely to be in poverty than non-Veterans. Veterans live in households that were less likely to receive food stamps than their non-Veteran counterparts. Veteran men were more likely to live in a household with no children than non-Veteran men.

Selected Characteristics between Veterans and Non-Veterans

(in percent)



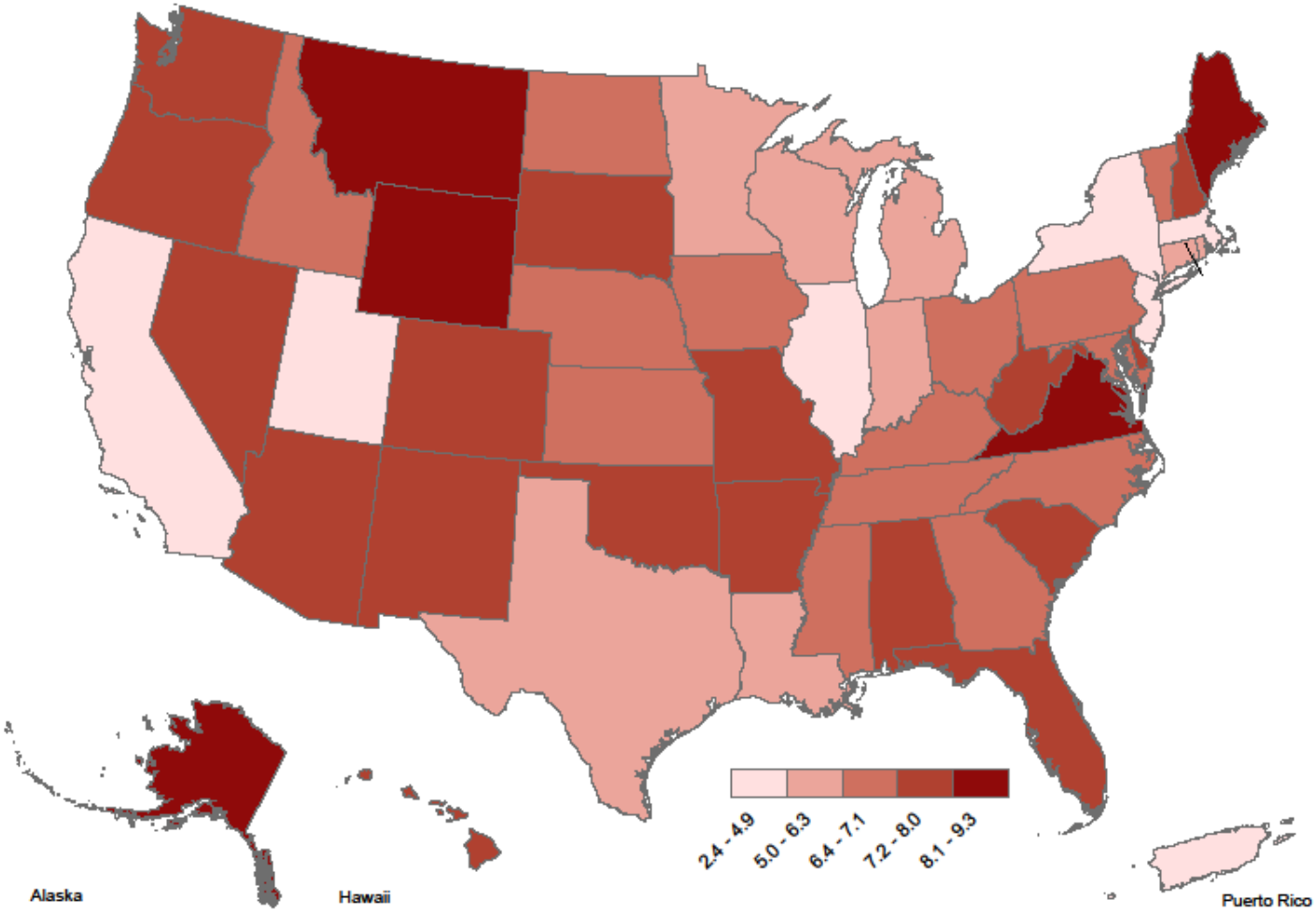


*Difference between Veteran and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

The three states with the highest percentage of Veterans in 2017 were Alaska, Maine and Montana.

Percent Veteran



States with the Highest Percent Veteran: 2017

State	Percent
Alaska	9.2
Maine	9.0
Montana	9.0
Washington	8.7
New Hampshire	8.3

States with the Highest Number of Veterans: 2017

State	Veterans
California	1,789,862
Texas	1,603,328
Florida	1,594,218
Pennsylvania	872,301
New York	838,129

Sources: VetPop2016, as of 9/30/2017 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veteran Population Totals by Gender

16,621,853 Male Veterans

1,641,182 Female Veterans

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017.

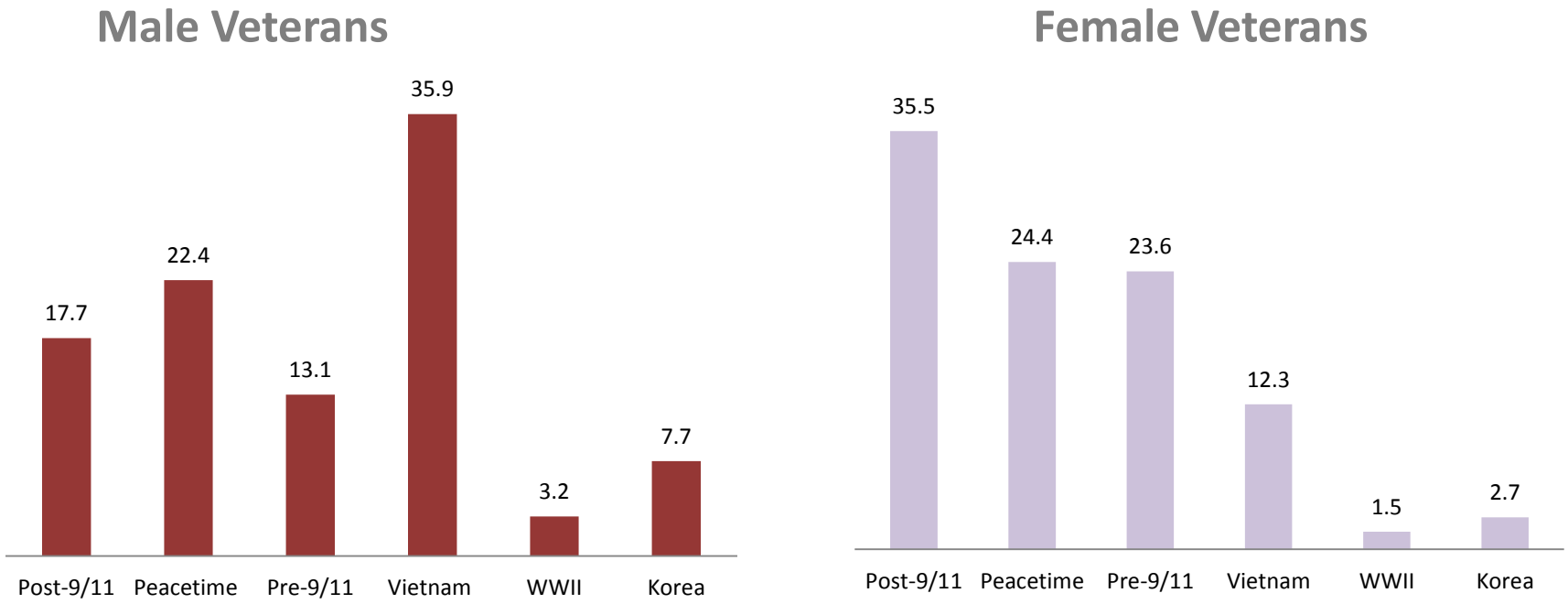
Issues to Consider When Analyzing Female Veterans

According to ACS data, female Veterans are significantly different than male Veterans. Following legislative changes, female Veterans started entering the military branches in greater numbers during more recent periods of service. A higher percent of female Veterans are minorities. Fewer Veterans are women. As of 09/30/2017, VetPop2016 estimates 1.9 million of the 19.6 million living Veterans are women, or about 9.5 percent of living Veterans are women.

Female Veterans are younger than male Veterans. The median age for female Veterans is 51, and the median age for male Veterans is 65. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment and income) will be affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

The largest cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era while the largest cohort of female Veterans served during Post-9/11.

Period of Military Service of Veterans
(in percent)



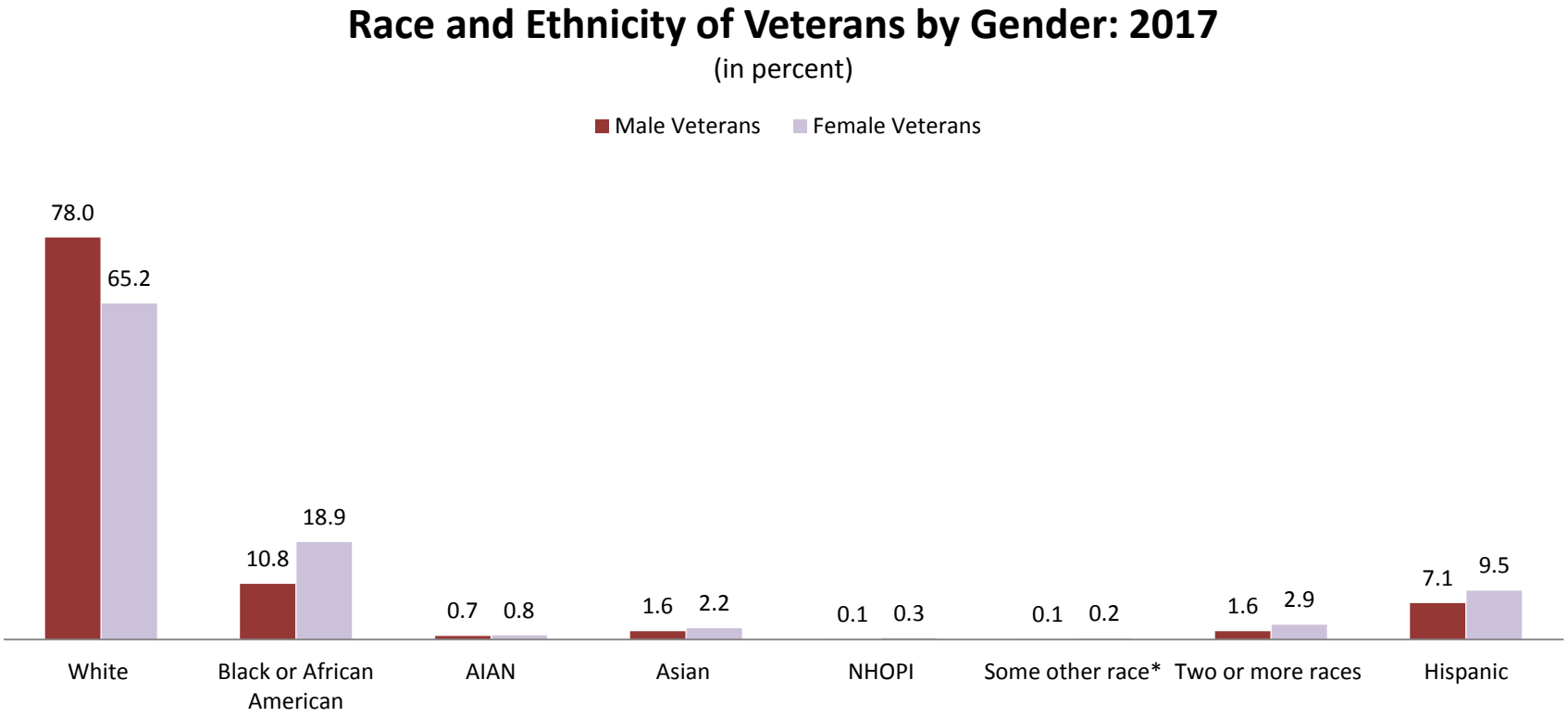
Period of Service Dates

- Post-9/11: Sept. 2001 to present
- Pre-9/11: Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001
- Vietnam Era: Aug.1964 to April 1975
- Korean War: July 1950 to Jan. 1955
- World War II: Dec. 1941 to Dec, 1946
- Peacetimes: Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964 and May 1975 to July 1990

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Note: Periods of service shown here are coded with multiple dispersed into categories with most recent period of service.

A higher percent of female Veterans were racially and ethnically diverse than male Veterans.



Note: Races categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population. Hispanics can be of any race.

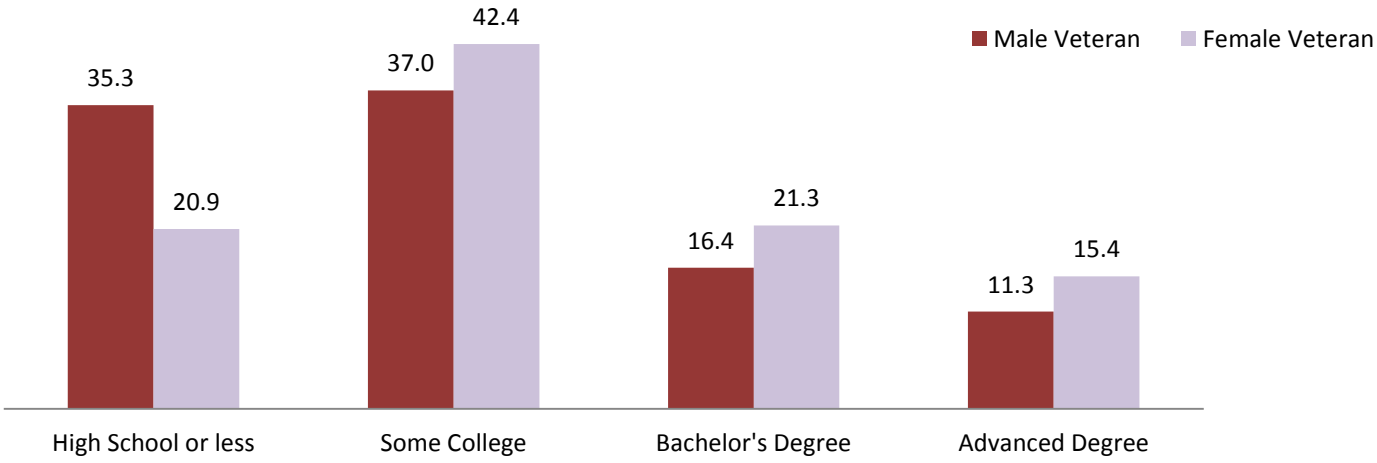
*Difference between male Veterans and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

A higher percent of female Veterans had higher education attainment and were enrolled in higher education compared to male Veterans.

Education Level of Veterans by Gender: 2017

(in percent)



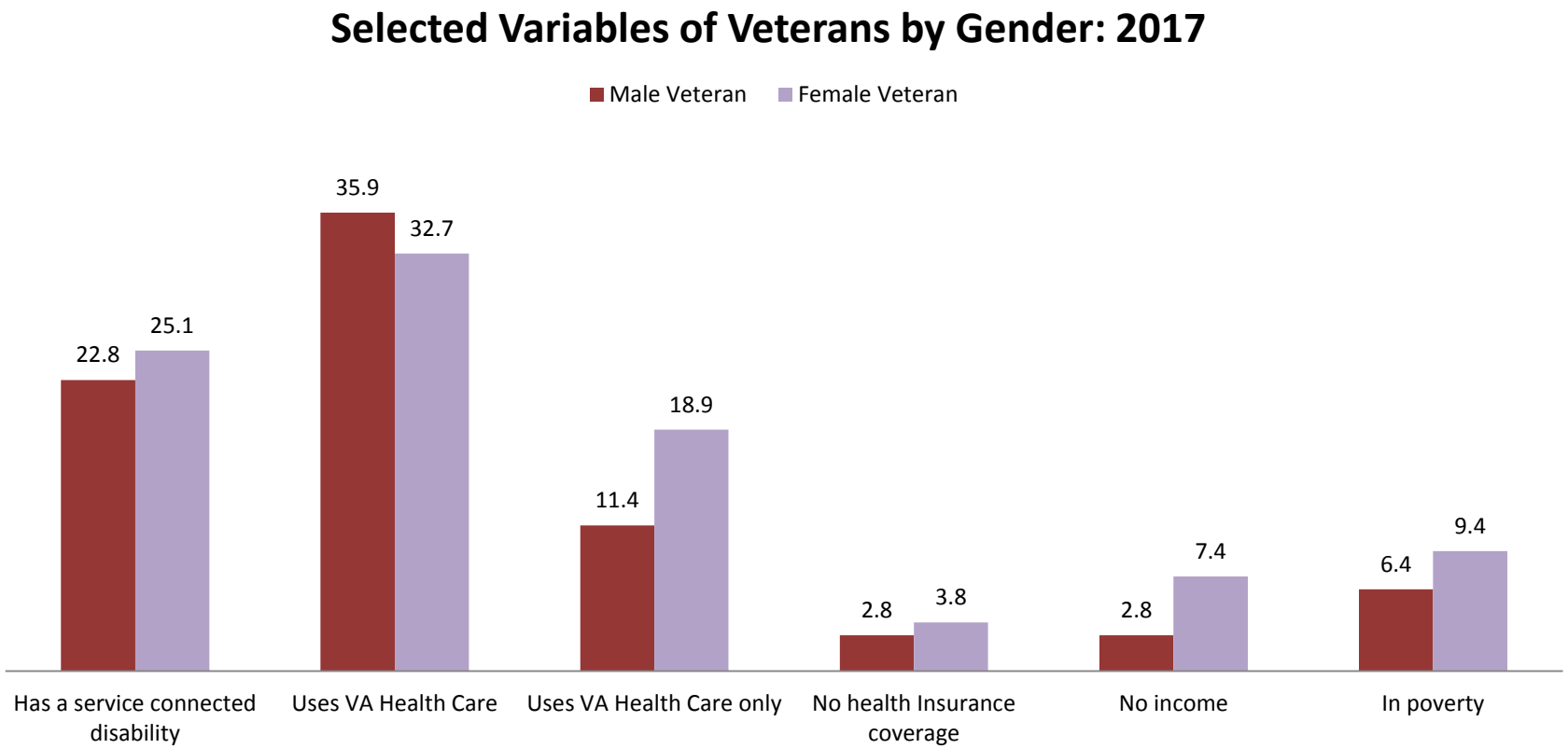
Veterans Enrolled in Higher Education by Gender: 2017

(in percent)

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
All Ages	3.9	10.8
17 to 24 Years Old	29.5	36.6
25 to 34 Years Old	22.4	31.6
35 to 44 Years Old	10.5	15.1

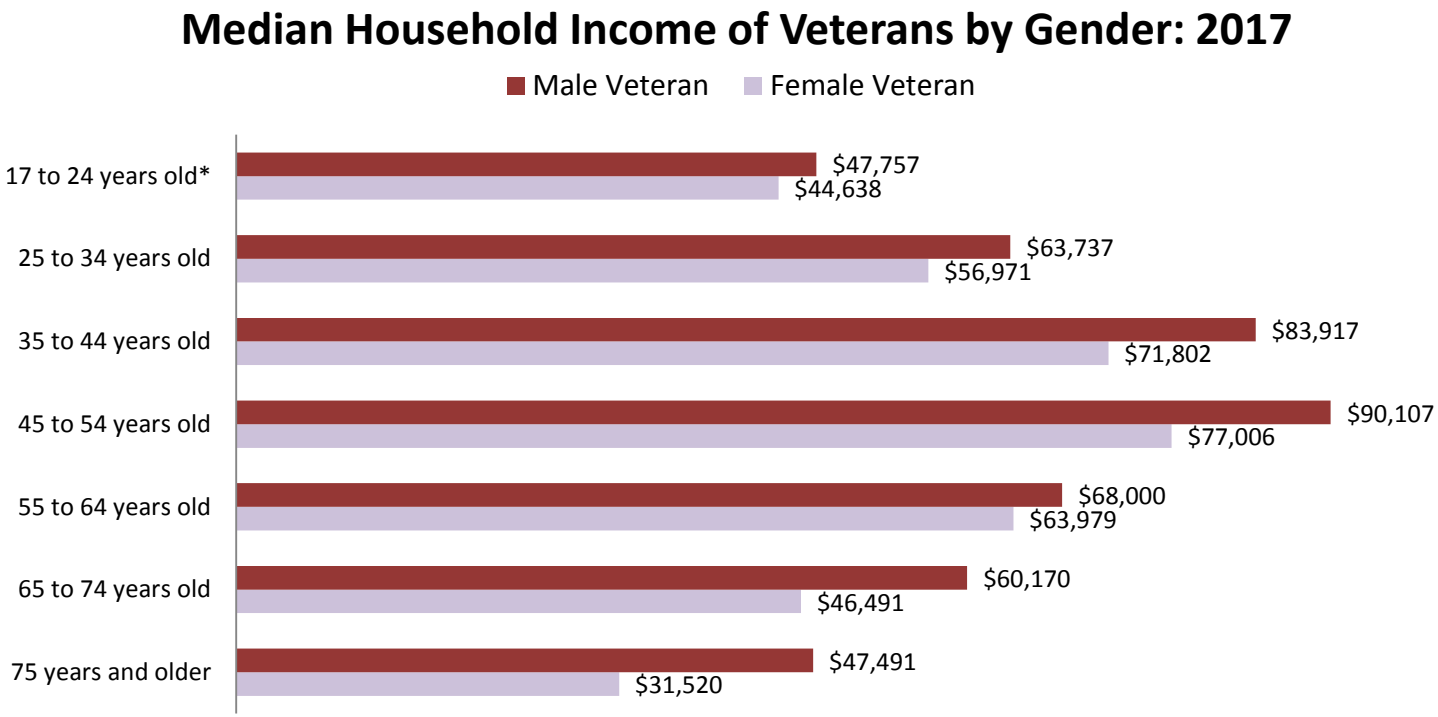
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

A higher percent of female Veterans had a service connected disability, had no personal income, and were in poverty than male Veterans. A lower percent of female Veterans used VA health care, but a higher percent only used VA health care than male Veterans.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Female Veterans had a lower median household income than male Veterans.



*Difference between male Veterans and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

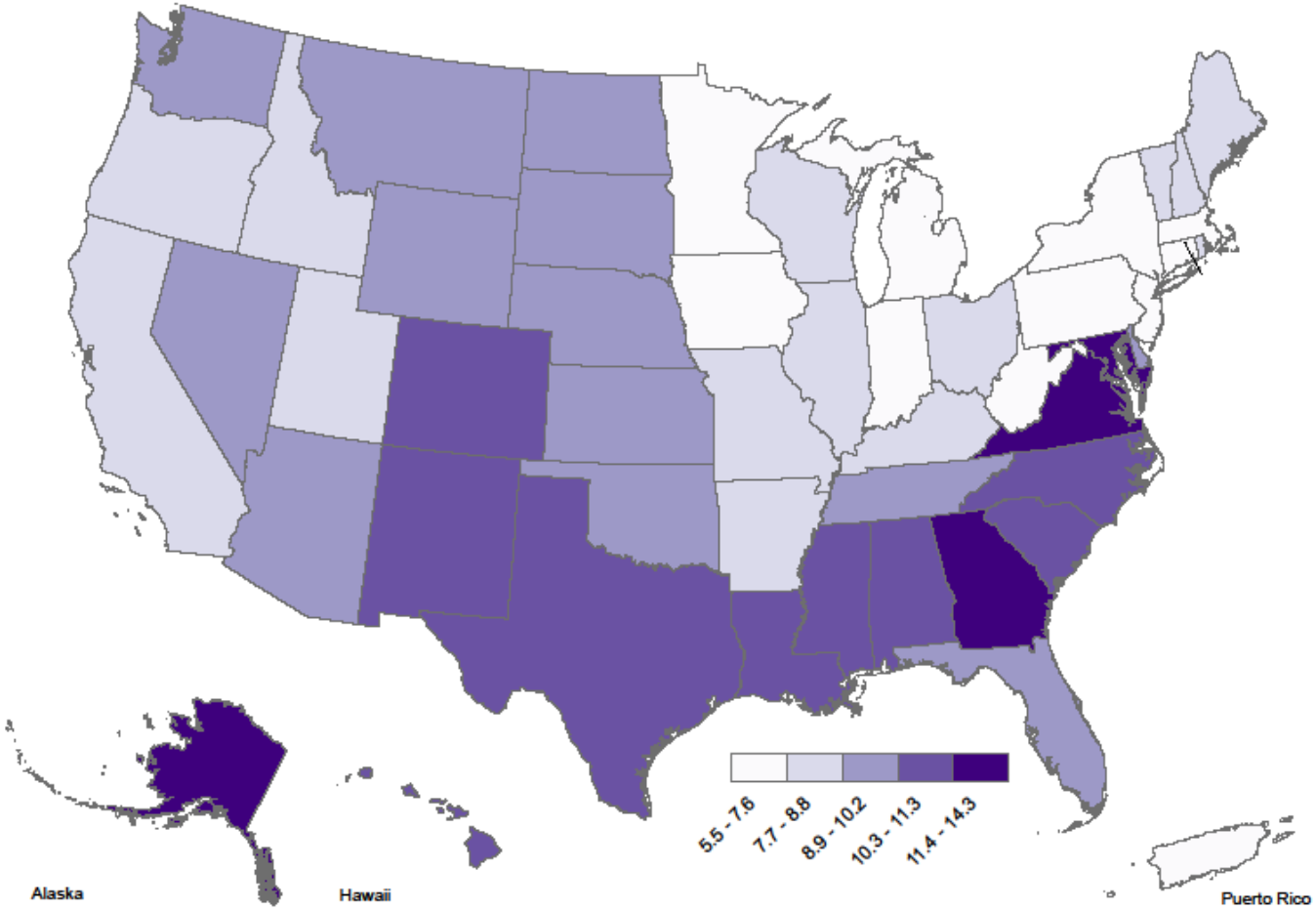
Veterans	Men	Women
Median Household Income	$61,986	$60,223
Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps	5.8%	11.3%

Note: Income of Households: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

District of Columbia*, Virginia, and Alaska were the top three states with the highest percentage of Veteran women.

Percentage of Veterans who were Women: 2017



States with the Highest Percentage of Veteran Women: 2017

State	Percent
District of Columbia*	14.0%
Virginia	13.6%
Alaska	13.3%
Maryland	12.6%
Georgia	12.1%

States with the Highest Number of Veteran Women: 2017

State	Women
Texas	168,967
California	142,904
Florida	142,193
Virginia	99,399
Georgia	84,894

*District of Columbia is listed as a state for the purpose of this slide only.

Sources: VetPop2016, as of 9/30/2017 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Total Minority Veterans Comparisons

4,221,136 Veterans

92,473,066 Non-Veterans

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017

Issues to consider when analyzing minority groups

The sample size of minority Veteran groups were small and could result in larger standard errors, making determination of statistically significant difference between groups difficult. Due to diversity across race and ethnicity, it is preferable not to analyze all minority subpopulations as one monolithic group.

The study of Hispanics highlights some of the issues involved when minorities are combined all together for analysis. Hispanics are a diverse population. Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans, and South Americans differ significantly in many respects. The differences between these subpopulations can be lost when all are placed one group, "Hispanics." Academic research typically analyze Hispanic subgroups separately when the data allow; however, in this study subgroup data were not available.

The Veteran population is getting more diverse with the Post-9/11 and Pre-9/11 cohorts having the highest percentages of minorities.

Veteran Race and Hispanic Origin by Period of Service

(in percent)

	White	Black or African American	AIAN	Asian	NHOPI	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
Post-9/11 (Sept.2001 to present)	64.9	14.6	0.8	2.8	0.2	0.2	2.8	13.5
Pre-9/11 (Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001)	69.5	15.8	0.9	1.8	0.2	0.2	2.4	9.3
Vietnam Era Only (Aug. 1964 to April 1975)	82.6	9.1	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.1	1.2	5.0
Korean Conflict Only (July 1950 to Jan. 1955)	88.1	5.2	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	4.4
World War II Only (Dec. 1941 to Dec. 1946)	90.9	3.6	0.2	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	2.8
Peacetime Only (Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964; May 1975 to July 1990)	77.6	12.9	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.1	1.4	5.9

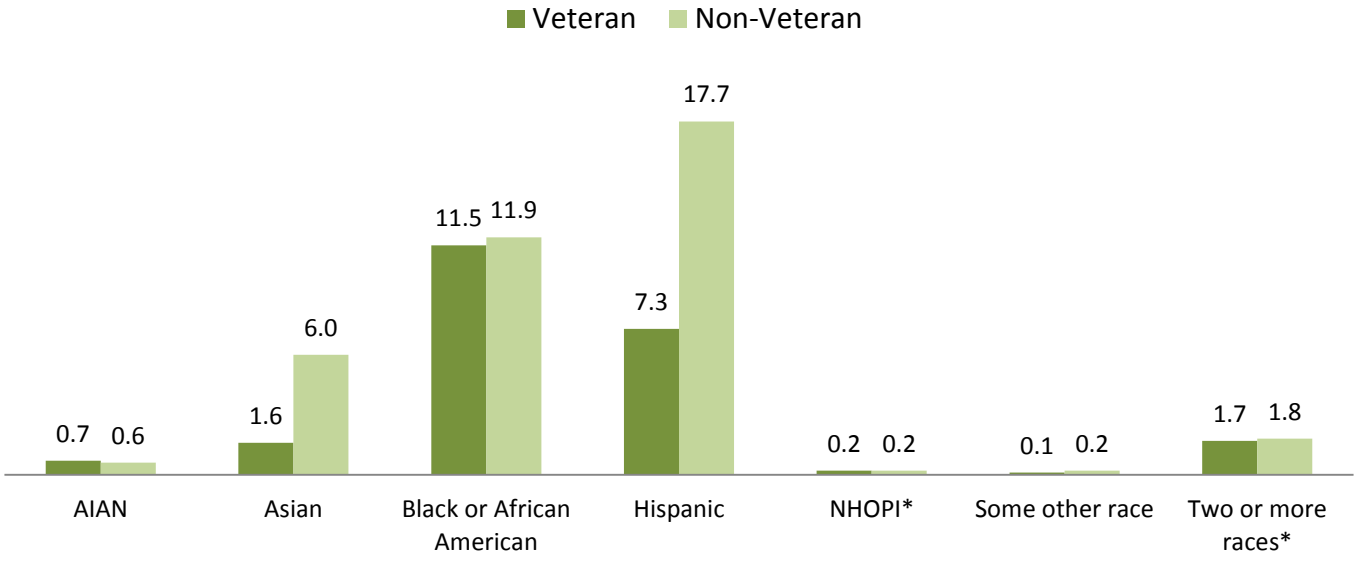
Note: Periods of military service shown here are coded with Veterans who have multiple periods of service being placed into their most recent period of service.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Minority Veterans made up about 23 percent of the total Veteran population while non-Veteran minorities made 38 percent of the total civilian population in 2017.
The two largest minority Veteran groups were Black or African American (12 percent) and Hispanic (7 percent).

Minorities by Veteran Status

(in percent)

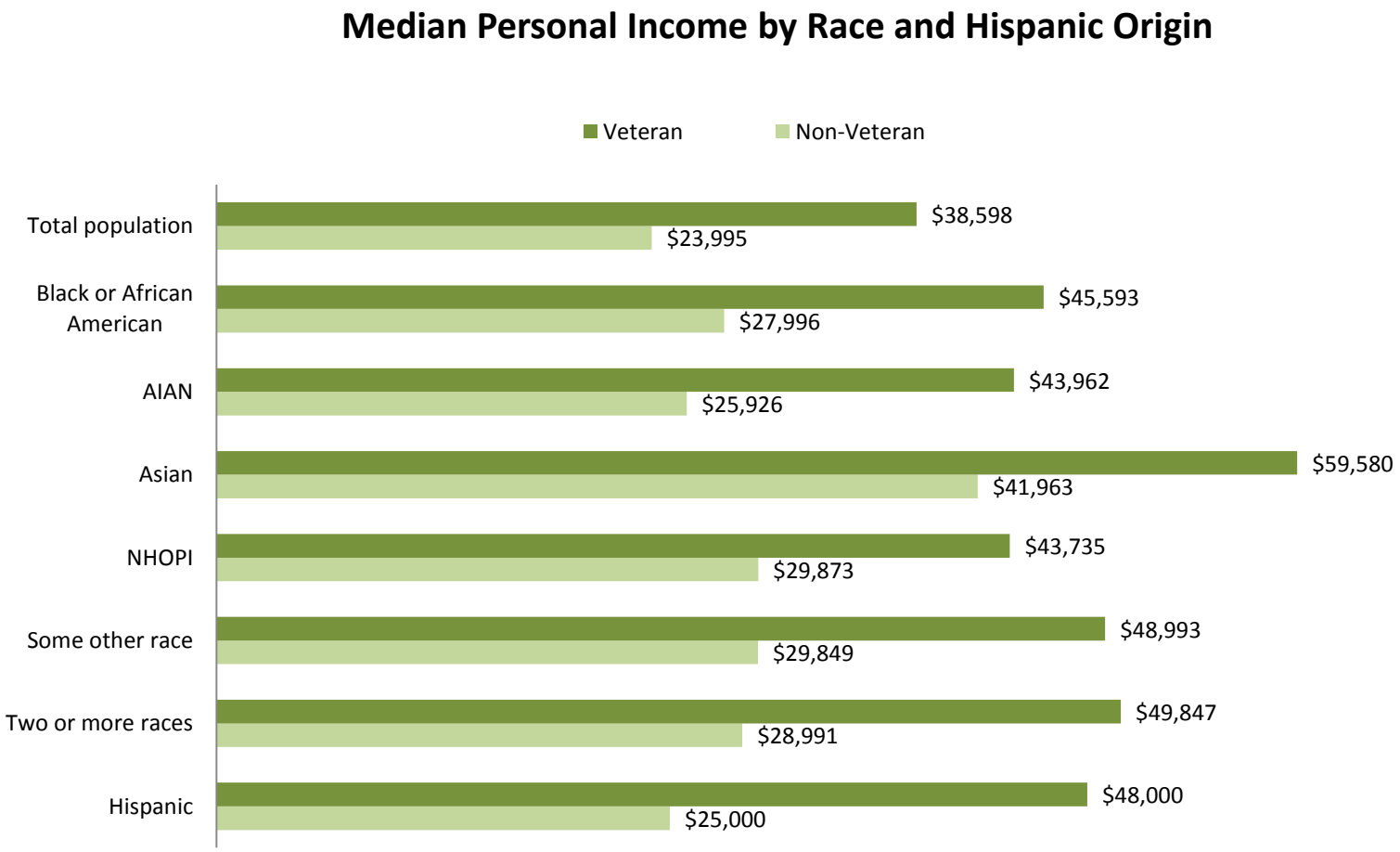


*Difference between Veteran and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: Races categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population. Hispanics can be of any race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

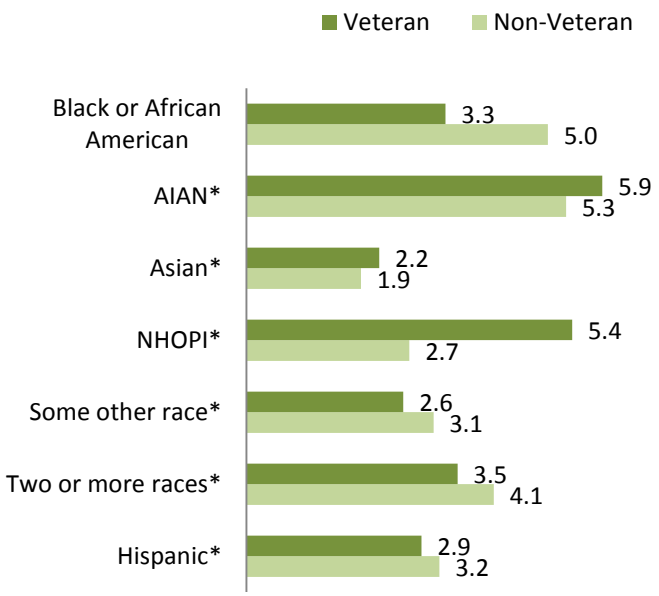
Minority Veterans had much higher median personal incomes than non-Veterans.



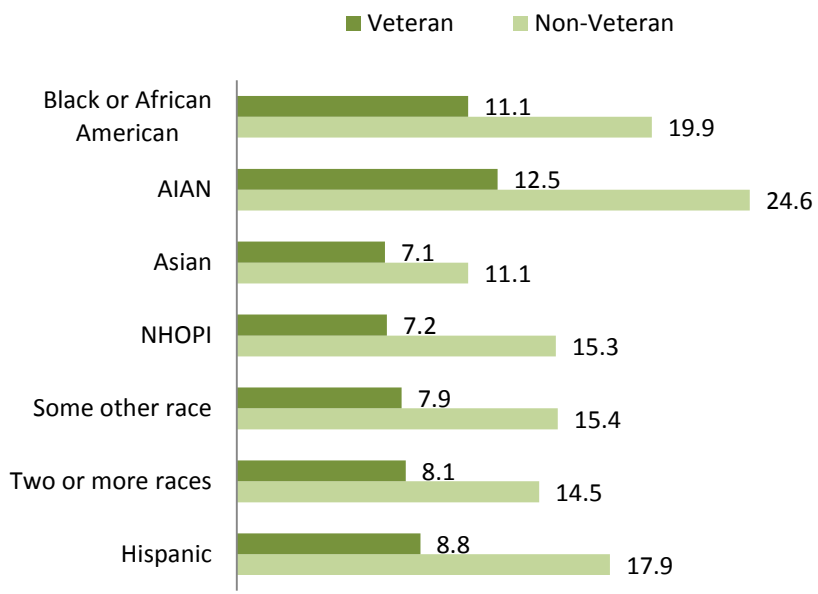
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Black or African American Veterans were more likely to have lower unemployment rates than their non-Veteran counterparts. Minority Veterans were less likely to be in poverty than non-Veteran minorities.

Unemployment by Race and Hispanic Origin
(in percent)



In Poverty by Race and Hispanic Origin
(in percent)



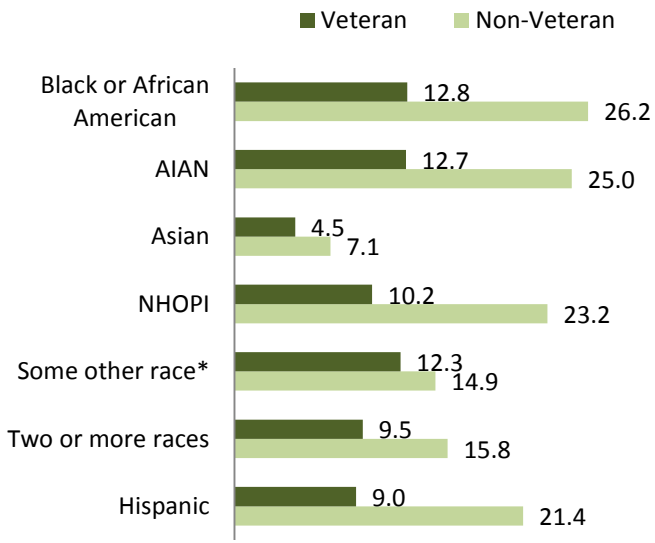
Notes: (1) Unemployment rate based on population 17 to 65 years of age; (2) Poverty rate excludes persons living in group quarters.

*Difference between Veteran and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

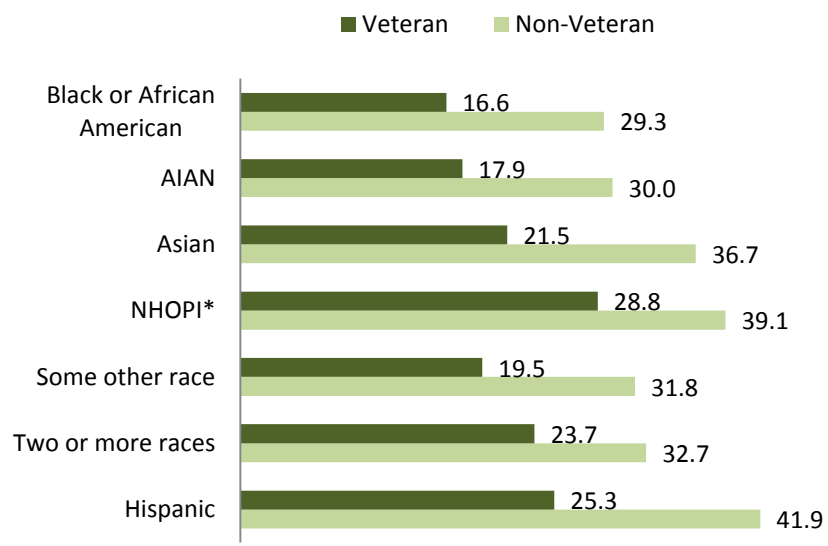
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

A lower percentage of minority Veterans live in households received food stamps than minority non-Veterans. Minority Veterans were less likely to live in households with children than minority non-Veterans.

Food Stamp Household Recipient by Race and Hispanic Origin
(in percent)



Households with Children by Race and Hispanic Origin
(in percent)

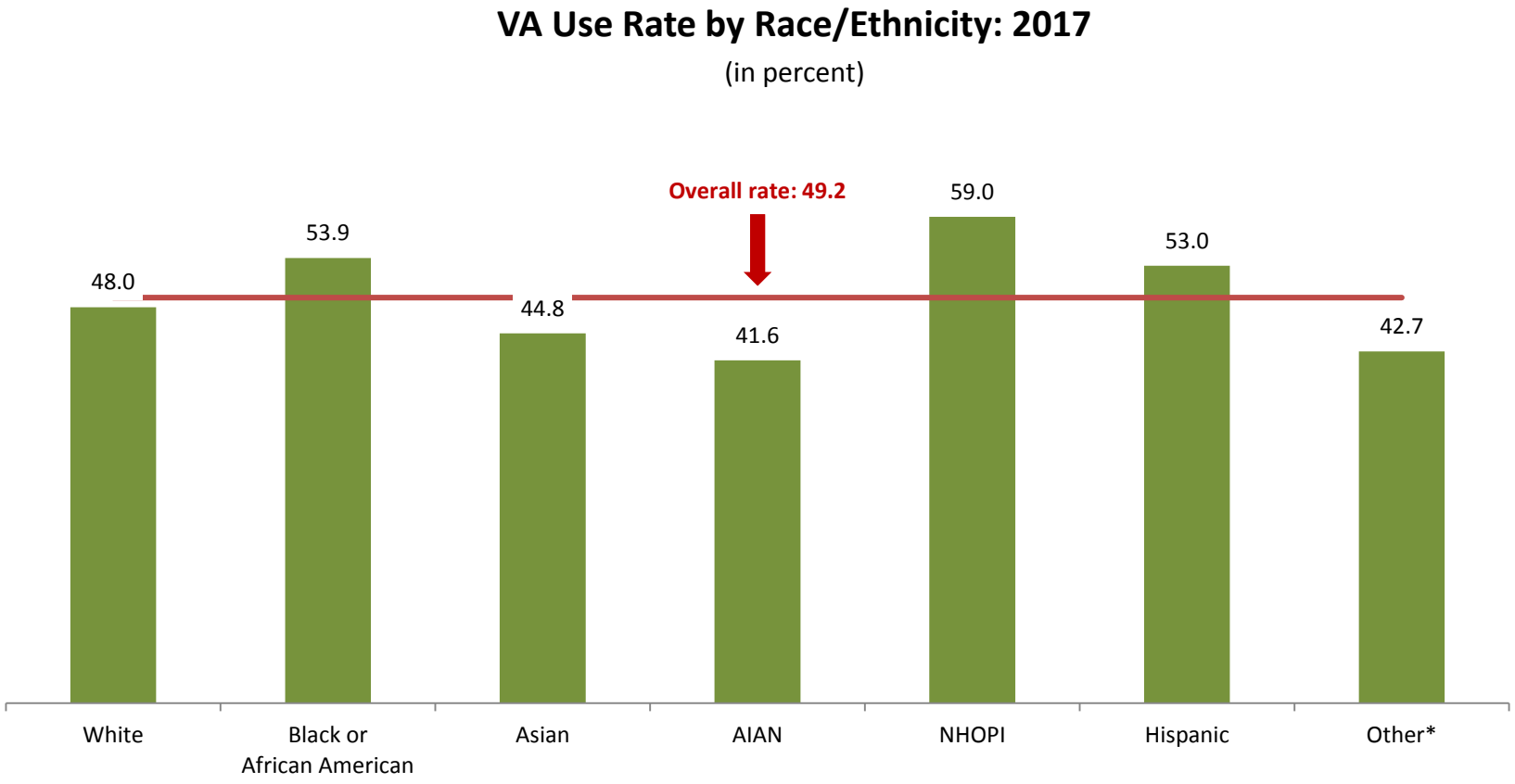


Note: The food stamp program is also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Food stamp-recipient household defined as a household where someone received food stamps.

*Difference between Veteran and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Black or African American, and Hispanic Veterans were more likely to utilize VA benefits than any other racial group while AIAN and Other race Veterans were the least likely to use any VA benefits.



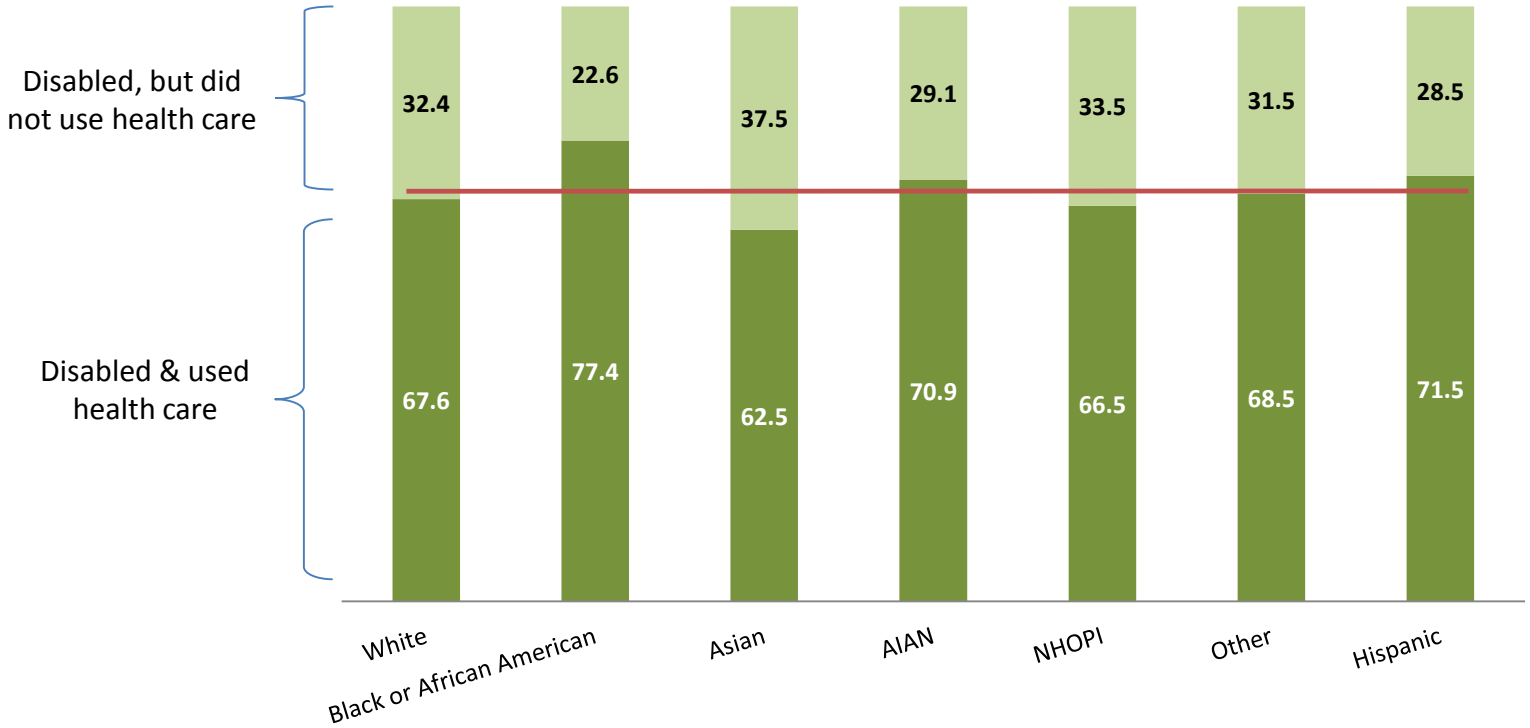
**Includes Veterans of two or more races.*

Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

The likelihood of a disabled Veteran seeking treatment from a VA Health Care facility varied with race and ethnicity; however, rates for Black or African American, Hispanic, and AIAN were higher than the overall rate of VHA use.

Service-connected Disabled Veterans Receiving Compensation and VA Health Care use by Race/Ethnicity: 2017

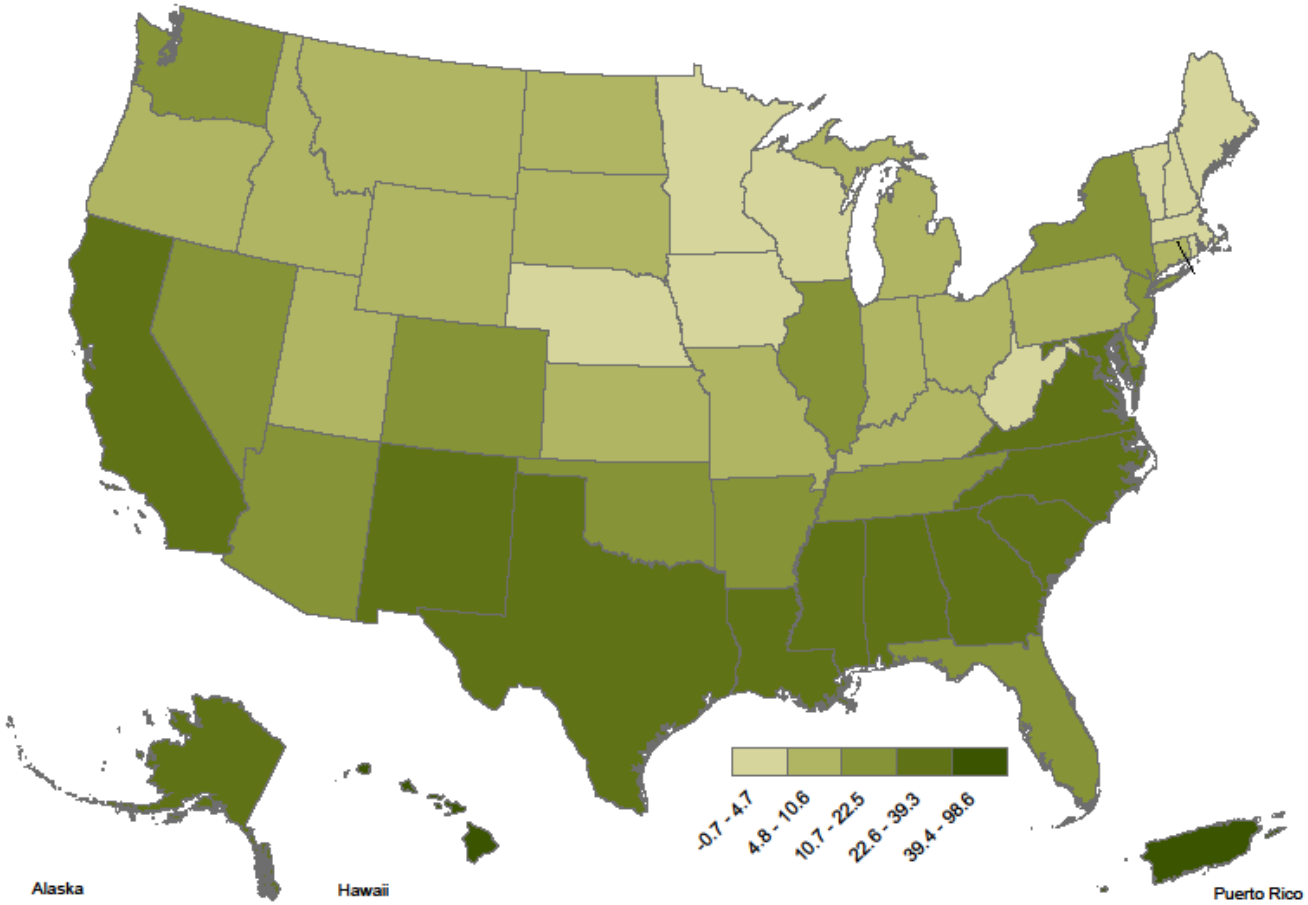
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Puerto Rico, District of Columbia* and Hawaii were the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans who were minorities.

Percentage of Veterans who were Minorities: 2017



States with the Highest Percentage of Veterans who were minorities: 2017

	Percent
Puerto Rico	98.7
District of Columbia*	63.7
Hawaii	63.7
New Mexico	41.0
Maryland	38.3

States with the Highest Number of minority Veterans: 2017

State	Minority Veterans
California	628,963
Texas	564,675
Florida	347,821
Georgia	265,255
Virginia	219,961

*District of Columbia is listed as a state for the purpose of this slide only.

Sources: VetPop2016, as of 9/30/2017 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2017
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Summary of Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

According to data from the 2017 American Community Survey, male Veterans were older, more likely to be White non-Hispanic, more likely to be married, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than male non-Veterans. Employed male Veterans were more likely to work in production or transportation, and more likely to work for local, state, or Federal governments than their non-Veteran counterparts. Full-time, year-round male Veterans earned about $10,000 more than similar non-Veterans counterparts. Some differences between male Veterans and male non-Veterans may be attributable to age. The median age of male Veterans in 2017 was 65 years while the median age of male non-Veterans was 42 years.

A lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old than female non-Veterans. These are the ages when most men and women may still be serving in the military and have not yet become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 51 and female non-Veterans was 47 in 2017. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non Hispanic, more likely to be divorced or separated, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than female non-Veterans. Employed female Veterans were more likely to be in management, business, science and arts occupations, less likely to be in sales or service occupations, and more likely to work in local, state, or Federal government than female non-Veterans. Full-time, year-round female Veterans earned about $10,000 more than female non-Veterans.

Summary of Veteran Comparisons

The largest living cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era (August 1964 to April 1975) while the largest living cohort of female Veterans served during the Post-9/11 period (September 2001 or later).

Compared with male Veterans, female Veterans were more likely to have completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, be enrolled in college, more likely to have a service-connected disability rating, less likely to use VA health care at all but more likely to use VA health care only, have no personal income, and live in poverty.

Employed female Veterans were more likely to work in management, business, science and arts occupations than employed male Veterans.

Some differences between male and female Veterans may be attributable to age as male Veterans are significantly older than female Veterans. The median age of male Veterans was 65 years in 2017, compared with 51 years for female Veterans.

Summary of Minority Veterans Comparison

- Minority Veterans appear to be better off in key socioeconomic indicators (income, employment, poverty, and health care coverage) than their non-Veteran minority counterparts.

- Understanding demographics of minority groups can help VA provide benefits and services to minority Veterans, assess their needs and anticipate future needs. Minority Veterans -

  1. Made up approximately 23 percent of the total Veteran population
  2. Made up approximately 35 percent of the female Veteran population
  3. Were younger than White, non-Hispanic Veterans
  4. Had a median age of 53 to 59 versus 66 for White, non-Hispanic Veterans

- Demographic implications of the All-Volunteer Force continue to affect composition of Veteran population over time -

  1. Older Veterans are from a draft-era military—one which was overwhelmingly men and White.
  2. We project the Veteran population will decrease from 18.6 million in 2017 to 12.9 million in 2040. Over this time, the proportion of minorities among all Veterans will increase from 23 percent to 34 percent.

Contact Information

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Enterprise Integration
National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

For general inquiries, please email us at VANCVAS@va.gov.